



COMMUNICATOR

March 2018

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 located at:

501 W. Sanford in central Arlington at 7:30 p.m.

Members generally begin arriving at 7:00 pm.

The executive board meeting is held prior to the general member meeting at starting at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend the executive board meeting.

President's Corner

Greetings radio amateurs. The revamped Arlington ARC 2 meter net got off to a good start. We had several members check in during the initial analog portion and three hung around for the digital portion. Be sure to join the fun this month on Saturday, March 17th at 7:00pm. That's the Saturday after the club meeting.

The other operating event, the ARRL International DX contest on was also a success. We operated most of the day on Saturday and club members made over 100 contacts in about 30 countries! Be sure to join us for our next operating event at the club picnic at River Legacy Park on May 19th.

Come join us at the next club meeting on Friday, March 16.

Rob

K5SLD Repeaters

147.14+ PL 110.9

224.8- PL 110.9

444.2+ PL 100.0

Announcements

March Program

DXtreme!

On the heels of last month's ill-fated DXpedition to to remote Bouvet Island in the treacherous South Atlantic, our own Steve Bennett KD5ZD has unearthed, in his own archives, a piece of DX history - a 25 year old VHS tape! We will take a look at this video retrospective of the successful expedition to South Sandwich Island in 1992. Not unlike the most recent activation of South Sandwich in 2016, these brave hams were met with what its discoverer, Captain James Cook, referred to as "The worst place on earth." And all this just to get on the radio!



Steve will tell us a little about what really goes into these harrowing adventures and share some practical tips for the aspiring DX chaser. In other words, one need not be an expert - or a daredevil - to enjoy DX!

Current Events

ARRL World Phone Contest March 3, 2018

On Saturday March 3rd an enthusiastic little group from the Arlington Amateur Radio Club met at Virginia, NV5F's house to try their hand on the HF bands. Perhaps a DX contest is an overwhelming first outing: wall-to-wall stations calling, pileups of hundreds of ops answering all at once! However these determined souls were not thwarted by the cacophony of hams calling "CQ contest" following it a string of, often unintelligible, phonetics in unfamiliar accents. The contest itself is an ideal training ground, since all DX entities are obliged to work US or Canadian stations, thus offering the newcomer ample opportunities to talk to a wide variety of countries and to feel the amazement which inevitably follows the first contact with a voice that is thousands of miles away!

Rob NV5E supplied us with his excellent Elecraft station complete with 500 watts of power and Heil Sound headset. Mary KG5URO, Scott AE5PC, Steve KZ5MSE, and John (I didn't catch your call) stopped by, and most took a turn at the mic with Rob and Virginia coaching. Rob's right hand Erin came by for a bit, and we all visited and ate and made about 50 contacts as a group. Rob left his station set up and Virginia worked into the evening, increasing the club total to 110 QSO's for a total of about 50 countries.

Everyone had a great time and learned a lot we are planning to have more club operating activities soon, including the club picnic in May, and, of course, Field Day in June. So please consider attending future events with the intention of getting on the air! The more the merrier!

Texas State Parks on the Air

My name is Ken and my call sign is AC5EZ, a member of the Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub, LAARK (<https://www.k5lrk.com/>), in The Colony, Texas. Club call is K5LRK. LAARK is, once again, sponsoring the Texas State Parks on the Air contest this year. If you are not familiar with the TSPOTA contest I invite you to visit <http://www.TSPOTA.org> for complete rules and park activation information. But first, let me give you a brief overview of TSPOTA.

TSPOTA is an annual event that takes place on the second full weekend in April, (*except when Easter falls on the second weekend, then the contest is moved to the first weekend of April*). This year it will be April 7-8, 2018. TSPOTA is a low pressure, fun contest, designed to give Texas hams that have been house bound during the winter, a chance to go to a local state park and make a few contacts. It is a great opportunity to check out your radio gear and enjoy a little sunshine in the park.

The purpose of this email is twofold. First is to familiarize you with TSPOTA, and second to try to encourage your club to join us in this event. And maybe, convince your club to activate a park.

Thanks for your time and I hope to hear you on TSPOTA. If you don't mind, would forward this email to your club members.

You may contact any one of these TSPOTA committee members if you need more information.

73,

Ken, AC5EZ

Contact information:

TSPOTA information

info@tspota.org

Ken Rainey, ac5ez

ac5ez.tx@arrl.net

Ken Mitchell, kd2kw

kd2kw@yahoo.com

Tim Curtiss, kc5dct

kc5dct@arrl.net

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Interested in a Club Badge?



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Birthdays

Kathleen Holley	3/3
Joann Lines	3/22
Darin Muir	3/30

If I missed your birthday, let me know (I won't include the year, it makes me feel old) - Trey

Calendar of Events

March 16: General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford.

==== Dining Out (March 17, 5:00 pm) ====

Candlelite Inn Restaurant, 1202 E Division St, Arlington, TX 76011

==== Breakfast (April 7, 8:30 am) ====

Pioneer Restaurant 306 109th St, Arlington, TX 76011

March 17: Testing 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

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

Warning sirens

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 David Walker W5DJO (cushmantx@sbcglobal.net) or the Office Of Emergency Management (817-459-6939).

Meeting Minutes

February 2018 Membership Meeting Minutes submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:30 pm on February 16th, 2018 by the President, Rob NV5E. Other board members present included Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer and Repeater Trustee, Maurice KM5RF; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Editor, Trey AF5XS. Absent was Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT.

Rob NV5E called the meeting to order and asked the attendees to introduce themselves by name and call sign.

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

Virginia NV5F informed the membership that the evening's presentation would be given by Bob Ballard KG5SQJ on the topic of manually programming a Baofeng HT radio. A Remote (via Skype) presentation by DX Engineering is being coordinated. DX Engineering is open to suggestions, so submit your questions or suggestions to Virginia who will forward them.

On March 3rd, Virginia will host, at her home, a station participating in the ARRL International DX contest from approximately 10 am to 6 pm. Virginia will also run an AARC 2-meter net on the Saturdays following the club meeting to provide an opportunity for club members to get on the air.

Maurice KM5RF submitted the treasurer's report for publication in the newsletter. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the report as published.

Maurice reported that the audit committee completed the audit of the 2017 financial records.

As repeater trustee, he reported that the repeaters are in working order. He would like to make an upgrade to the 440 repeater, and he'll provide more information next month.

Phil N5PWW holds testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 10 am at 401 W. Sanford St (use the north side entrance). There are no training sessions being held at this time. He is close to having enough people interested in participating in the General Class session. He is also open to holding a CW training session.

Trey AF5XS compiled and distributed the newsletter. If you would like any items of interest to appear in the newsletter, please submit them to Trey no later than the Sunday before the club meeting.

Rob NV5E mentioned that the AARC picnic will be held on May 19th at River Legacy Park. A motion was made and carried to reimburse David Spore for the \$80 cost of the reservation.

A break was taken at 8:04 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:20 pm with a presentation by Bob Ballard on how

to manually program Baofeng HT radios.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm. The sign-in sheet showed 29 people in attendance, 25 indicating AARC membership.

February 2018 Executive Board Meeting Minutes submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on February 16th, 2018 at 6:33 pm. Present were President, Rob NV5E; Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer and Repeater Trustee, Maurice KM5RF; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Editor, Trey AF5XS.

Absent was Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT.

Rob NV5E called the meeting to order.

Rob NV5E reported that David Spore successfully made a reservation for May 19th at River Legacy Park for the AARC picnic. He also made a motion to approve the addition of himself and Don Kovatch N5YAK to the Repeater Committee. The motion carried.

Virginia informed the board that the presentation for February will be given by Bob Ballard on the topic of Baofeng HT radio programming. She is also planning a presentation by DX Engineering (via Skype). DX Engineering takes requests for presentation topics, so Virginia will forward ideas from the membership to DX Engineering. She will host a newbie net Saturday evening on the 2-meter repeater to provide an opportunity for club members to get on the air. On March 3rd, she will host a station for the ARRL International DX Contest

Phil N5PWW holds testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. There are currently no classes in session. Phil updated the club information with the Texas Secretary of State.

Andy KB2VQA submitted the January meeting minutes to Trey for publication in the February newsletter.

Maurice KM5RF will conduct the annual audit of the financial records from 2017 this evening. He paid the ARRL repeater insurance, and paid for 2 years of web registration for the K5SLD domain name. In 2018 he would like to add a Henry Radio amplifier to the 70-cm repeater.

Trey AF5XS published and distributed the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

AARC February 2018 Financial Report

		DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	BALANCE
BALANCE	01/31/18			
			GENERAL FUND	\$ 3,244.44
			G&W	\$ 280.59
			REPEATER FUND	\$ 404.00
			CHECKING	\$ 3,929.03
			SAVINGS	\$ 25.00
			C.D.	\$ 2,176.51
			PETTY CASH	\$ 25.00
			NET TOTAL	\$ 6,155.54
EXPENSES	2013	MAURICE MARTIN	WEB DOMAIN	\$ 109.02
			GOOD & WELFARE	\$ 90.18
			AARL INSURANCE	\$ 69.30
			TOTAL	\$ 268.50
	2014	DAVID SPORE	CLUB PICNIC	\$ 80.00
	2015	STORAGE HUT	STORAGE	\$ 235.00
INCOME				
	DEP	DUES	DUES	\$ 220.88
	DEP	DONATION KG5WXR	DONATION	\$ 20.00
	DEP	GOOD & WELFARE	G&W	\$ 15.00
			NET CHANGE	\$ 327.62
BALANCE	02/28/18			
			GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,992.00
			G&W	\$ 205.41
			REPEATER FUND	\$ 404.00
			CHECKING	\$ 3,601.41
			SAVINGS	\$ 25.00
			C.D.	\$ 2,176.51
			PETTY CASH	\$ 25.00
			NET TOTAL	\$ 5,827.92

Membership

I am looking forward to getting the Membership Committee into action this year and have already been working on some ideas. We have two committee members in addition to myself, and I would like to have at least one more permanent member. Please contact me if you would like to help out. I want to thank Robert (James) and Mary for helping out!

The membership committee is here to help the club obtain new members and help serve all of our existing members. Our work does not end with bringing somebody into the club. We will be working as active members of the club to help with activity planning, help recruit volunteers for various events, and find ways to make the club experience as rewarding as possible. Each month, the membership committee will meet via conference call or an occasional central meeting location. We will discuss activities, new members, and what we want to present at the next club meeting. Here are some of the projects and ideas the committee is currently working on:

Membership Packet

I had put together a packet before and will be making some improvements to the presentation. The packet will include a form that the new member can fill out which allows them to express their interests and what they hope to get out of their club membership. It will contain information about how they join the club, our history, and what we do each year. They can either go online to fill out their application, or they can turn in a paper application to the committee member (who will forward it on to the Board). The other information obtained will be maintained by the membership committee.

Elmer Roster

The Membership Committee will be asking for volunteers to sign up for the official Elmer Roster. We always like helping fellow Hams, and this is a way of making sure members know where to go for help on a specific topic. When a new member fills out their information form, they will indicate what topics interest them. The Committee will then match those interest(s) with Elmers on the roster and have the appropriate Elmer contact the new member.

General Membership Support

The Committee will help organize and support club activities, such as the club picnic and dining out. Volunteers in the committee can help increase participation in some events and also come up with ideas for new events. The club can have many activities, giving members a variety to choose from. Some activities may be organized based on what new members express an interest in. We will keep looking for ways to help all of our members. The Elmer Roster, for example, works just as well for a long-time member as a newbie. Anytime you need help on a particular topic, refer to the Elmer Roster (which will be published in the newsletter).

Newsletter Announcements

We would all like to get to know new members. When we know of a new member coming into the club, everybody should take a moment to welcome them. To help the general membership get to know our new members, we will be placing new member announcements in the Newsletter. The announcement will contain their name, callsign, brief bio and possibly a photo. In next month's Newsletter I plan to do a little catch-up and feature our most recent new members.

Thanks again for all of your support! I am looking forward to a great year!

David

Spore

KB3UBD

Time to pay Dues

Print a membership form from our website k5sld.org and join us. Annual dues are \$25.00 Individual, \$35.00 Family, or \$15.00 Associate

2018 Club Officers

President: Rob May NV5E – nv5e@arrl.net – 817-303-8891
Vice President: Virginia Smith NV5F - virginia@pipertoo.com- 601-467-5920
Secretary: Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA – kb2vqa@optonline.net – 817-652-0307
Treasurer: Maurice Martin KM5RF – km5rf1@charter.net – 817-266-9906
Editor: Trey Seastrunk AF5XS – trey01@swbell.net - 817-891-6372
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: Maurice Martin KM5RF (chair), Gerry Dalton W5MAY