



Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 14

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Officers

President

Pat Bell, KG5SC

Vice President

Wes Bolin, WV5I

Secretary

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Wes Bolin, WV5I

Jack Goodson, KA5IQB

Al Parsons, KA5LPJ

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Committees

Activities

Camping - Bill Brakeen, WB5CTX

Transmitter Hunts- Bill, W5HJF

Field Day

Dick Curtis, W5NEU

Instructional Classes

Malcolm Bussey, KF5JX

Newsletter

Travis Bailey, K5AVH

Digital

Hal Clark, KF5YO

Skywarn

Al Parsons, KA5LPJ

VE Testing

Wes Bolin, WV5I

Emergency Co-Ordinator

Wimpy Johnson, KG5XF

Flea Market

Wimpy Johnson, KG5XF

R.H. "Cap" Caplinger, KG5ZJ

Nets

.62 Net Dave Woisard, N5MTO

Swap Net Cap Caplinger, KG5ZJ

Digital Hal Clark, KF5YO

Display Booth

Carl Goree, KG5RX

Membership Chairman

Jack Goodson, KA5IQB

From the President

Pat, KG5SC

As most of you know by now, the Club is planning to host its first Annual Four States Amateur Radio Club Swap Meet

Wimpy and Cap have agreed to chair this very important committee. They are currently very busy planning all of the many facets that will have to come together to make the Meet a success.

The Meet will need the support and efforts of all the Club members. When called upon by the Chairmen, I urge you to agree to help in any way needed.

I believe that this can become an event of which we can take a lot of pride plus having a lot of fun.

Ham Com 1990

Have you started thinking about HamCom yet? Well, its time to begin.

Of course Ham-Com this year won't be the ARRL National Convention too, but a full array of programs and forums Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 8,9, and 10th are planned.

Most of the major manufacturers and dealers have already committed to Ham-Com, even though the ARRL National Convention will be the same weekend in Kansas City. But of course, everyone knows things are bigger in Texas!

Registration fees stay the same as last year, \$7 for a single ham registration, and \$10 for a family (up to four persons) registration, in advance. At the door they'll be \$1.00 higher.

There will also be three upgrade exam sessions Saturday and one Sunday, plus there will be baby-sitting services available at the Sheraton Hotel. On Friday, June 8, Gordon West will present a four hour upgrade exam session from 1-5 pm. A Pre-registration form is included in this newsletter

Dining Out

There were about 20 members and wives in attendance at the first dining out for 1990 which was held at the Red Lobster.

The food was great and everyone had a great time in spite of the rain. After the meal, several of us went on to TGY Yogurt to finish off the evening.

If you did not attend, plan on joining us for the next dining out which is scheduled for April 21.

THANKS!!!

Many thanks to all the guys that helped me put up my tower. Your friendship is very much appreciated. A1, KA5LPJ

Amateur TV in North Texas

Yes Amateur Television is alive and well in North Texas.

There are about 2 dozen known operating ATV stations in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Included in this group are some repeaters.

There is a cross band system in Boyd at W5OYS. This system can accept video either on 439.25 or 434.0 and repeat it back out on 923.25 Mhz. The input is horizontal and output is vertical. There is also a relay station in Weatherford that is intended to pick up the transmissions from W5OYS and send them back out on 70cm on 434.0 Mhz. W5OYS also has a color radar system that can be sent out in the event of severe weather in the area.

On the other end of the earth is W5EEY. This is a split site system that was originally set up to relay the color radar transmissions from WD5FYD from downtown Dallas. The input is 426.25mhz vertical and is located a few miles east of Terrell, Texas. The transmitter is linked via 900 Mhz and is located in Elmo, Texas. Mel Goodwin, W5EEY has also added a local radar and a weather station to keep amateurs up to date in case of severe weather. There is also a transmitter located in downtown Dallas that is used to relay weather radar from the KDFW Doppler Radar system. This system carries a call sign of W5SKYD and its only

purpose seems to relay WX radar in times of need although it has been seen to relay space shuttle from time to time. These three systems comprise most of the "repeater" systems in the area to date.

The Dallas-Ft. Worth area does not have a good general coverage ATV repeater at this time. But, as activity grows there may be a need for one in the near future.

From Arlington ARC Newsletter

An Elevator For Your Beam

Travis, K5AVH

It is not too often that you find a product that is really unique and performs exactly as advertised. I think I have found just that product.

I had been planning on adding to my 30 foot tower to make it a total of 60 feet but did not like the idea of have to climb it a number of times to make adjustments to the antennas or do routine maintenance. I remembered seeing an ad in QST by Glenn Martin Engineering for a device called a Hazer that would let you raise and lower the antenna, rotor, guy wires etc. so that they could be worked on at ground level. They advertised a model that would fit a Rohn 25 tower which is what I had.

I finally decided that this might just work for me but I had lots of questions. Finally I called Glenn Martin and asked all the questions that I could think of. When I had finished, I was convinced that it would do just what I wanted so I ordered one. This was on a Wednesday about noon.

Friday morning, UPS unloaded the Hazer at my front door. After unpacking it I found it to be complete and exactly as advertised--and what great service!

My tower is up now and I have had the Hazer up and down the tower about 20 times while making adjustments to my Butternut Butterfly beam which is not an easy beam to adjust.

All it takes is cranking the hand winch, which is mounted inside the tower legs at ground level. A cable runs up thru the center of the tower, thru a pulley which is mounted at the top of the tower and back down the outside to raise and lower the Hazer. The rotor, antenna and guy wires are mounted on the Hazer which operates like an elevator carrying them all up and down the tower on command. There is a built in

safety latch on the Hazer to prevent it from falling while it is being cranked up or down.

I am convinced it is one of the best purchases I ever made. I can now work on my antenna or rotor while safely standing on the roof of my shack which is almost flat. (My tower has a house bracket at eye height so I cannot lower the hazer to ground level but with a free standing tower, it could be lowered all the way to the ground.)

If you don't like tower climbing check into this alternate method of getting your antenna up into the air Glenn Martin advertises in QST each month.

Business Meeting

The Four States Amateur Radio Club held its February Business Meeting on Saturday February 10 at Wadley Hospital.

The meeting was called to order by the President and the minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the January newsletter.

The treasurers report was given by Bill, WD5HJF and showed a starting balance of \$266.29 at the beginning of the year. There were receipts of \$453.00 of dues in January and disbursements of \$64.83 for Newsletter and telephone bills, leaving a balance in the bank at the end of January of \$654.46. He said that there are now 45 members who have paid their 1990 dues and urged those who have not paid to do so as soon as possible.

Al, KA5LPJ, reminded everyone of the upcoming Skywarn Seminar in Naples on February 20 and urged everyone who could to attend.

Malcolm, KF5JX, said plans are being made for the next Novice classes to start in September or October.

Wes, WV5I, reported 20 checkins on the last Tuesday night net.

Cap said that all items which have been listed on the swap and shop net have been sold and invited anyone with gear for sale or trade to let him know.

Bill, KB5CTX said the first camp out for this year is scheduled for May 5th. The site for this campout has not been set.

Jack, KA5IQB, reported that Al, W5ENA, had recently been back in Wadley Hospital and would

be going to Little Rock for further test right away.

Bill, WD5HJF, said that the next transmitter hunt is scheduled for March 18 at 1:30pm.

Wimpy, KG5XF, and Cap, KG5ZJ, said that the advertising for the Swap Meet is about ready to go out and that plans are being made to have a soft drink concession at the meet.

Al, KA5LPJ, said that he needed some members to help with the Bikathlon which will be held on April 21.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30

DX-ing

Pat, KG5SC

Most of us have tuned across the bands and heard a pileup on a DX station. Upon hearing such a garble of gab we figure that there isn't any way to work that station no matter how badly we want to. Well one way that some rare DX can be worked is through the DX Nets. Here is how they work.

You listen to the Net Controller call for a list of DX check-ins. If you hear something that you want to work then you can check in when the controller calls for checkins. This is usually accomplished by giving the last two letters of your call sign. You would then stand by until called by the controller. Your normal response would be the Call Sign of DX Station, followed by Your Call Sign (usually given twice) plus the Signal Report of the station called. Most net controllers prefer that you use the ITU Recommended Phonetics since many of the DX stations have limited use of English. The DX station will then repeat your call sign, the signal report that you just gave them plus their signal report to you. When you hear the your signal report you should reply, "QSL the 59 and back to net" or something along that line so that the controller will know that you have had a good contact. Listed below are some of the DX Nets, their frequencies and approximate starting time. HI Net, 14.222, 00:00 UTC; 222 Net, 14.222, 05:30 UTC; Family Hour, 14.226.5, 11:00 & 23:00 plus 21.345, 18:00 UTC; French DX Foundation, 14.256, various times but usually about 23:00 UTC.

This is by no means a complete list. As you listen around the bands you will develop your own list. See ya on 55.

Membership Renewal

Date _____

Call _____ Class of License _____

Name _____

Spouses First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ Work _____

Annual Dues: Basic \$5.00 Basic+Repeater \$15.00 Basic+Repeater+Digipeater \$20.00

Checks to Four States Amateur Radio Club %Bill Miller, WD5HJF 18 Highland Hills Texarkana, Ar 75502

Calendar

FSARC 2m Net (146.62)

Each Tuesday 8pm (Swap Net Follows)

Lunch

Each Wednesday 12 noon Mr Gatti's State Line

Digital Net (145.01 Packet)

Each Thursday Night 8:30pm

DX Net (146.55 Simplex)

Daily 7-8am and 5:30 pm until

Skywarn Seminar

Tuesday Feb. 20 First Methodist Church , Naples, Tx

VE Testing

Saturday February 24 9am Wadley Hospital

ARRL DX Contest

Sat-Sun March 3,4

Transmitter Hunt

Sunday March 18 1:30pm

Skywarn

February

Bill, WD5HJF

Jack, KA5IQB

March

Dave, N5MTO

Dick, W5NEU

Four States Amateur Radio Club
18 Highland Hills
Texarkana, Ar. 75502

First Class Mail

**This will be your last newsletter
if you have not paid your 90 Dues.**