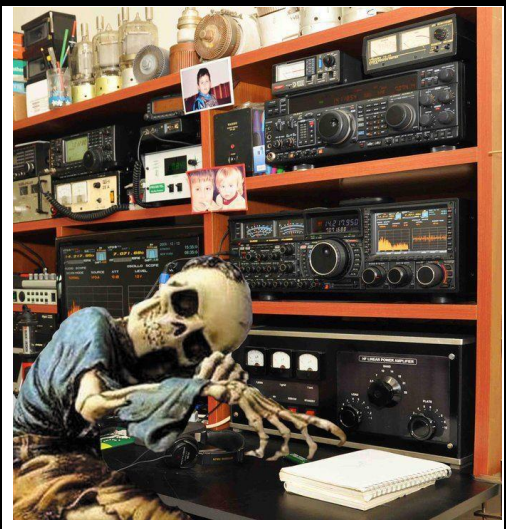




July 27, 2023



We are looking for more Net Control Operators!! If you are willing, please let me know.

Pre-net visiting and early check-ins start around 7 PM and the “formal” part of the Net starting with Prayer and Pledge at 7:30 PM.

Here is the rotation for net control. This is subject to change and most the time without notice! If you cannot fulfill your duties on your night, please contact the next weeks’ net control operator.

There is a Net Control Operator Script on the website with everything you need. Print it and practice it. Let me know if you would like to call a net.

[Goto Members Only / Net Control Operator Scripts.](#)

The Net Control Operator is:

**Jul 27 - David Jackson**

Aug 03 - Greg Waits

Aug 10 - Clarence Shilling

Aug 17 - Eric Richards

Aug 24 - David Jackson

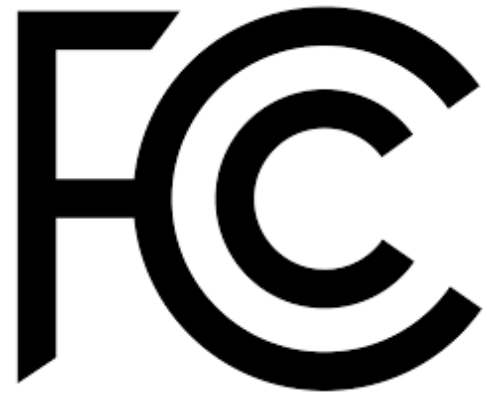
Aug 31 - Greg Waits

Sep 07 - Clarence Shilling

Sep 14 - Eric Richards

Sep 21 - David Jackson

Sep 28 - Greg Waits



## FCC Petition

The ad hoc group “Shortwave Modernization Coalition” petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 – 25 MHz range with up to 20 KW, including in bands immediately adjacent to spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests.

<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1>

## Another Tower Update

I asked Karen earlier to evaluate the tower for grounding issues. We met at the tower after the meeting Saturday. She engineered a plan and on Tuesday it was executed. We realized that very little if anything was grounded or properly bonded.

On Tuesday, we started at 10:30am and left at 9pm! At one point in history, this was a hot AM radio tower, KCMC built in 1947. Meaning the tower itself was the antenna. That means there needs to be ground wires in the ground and lot of it! Greg had a hoe and started digging in the ground for the grounding straps. He found some fragmented pieces. All four legs of the tower should be grounded as well. The grounding straps on 2 legs were broken and not connected. The other 2 legs didn't go into the ground very far. The building, equipment and tower need to be bonded together. This is our next step.

Karen replaced broken small gauge ground wire with much larger 2-gauge wire around the building and installed a grounding plate on the inside.

There were 3 old ground rods in the ground. The ground wire that grounds our equipment was broken off and not connected to the rod. One thing I learned is that ground rods that are too close together can act as a capacitor or inductor. Lightning does not like this and will find another way to ground possible through equipment. Therefore, a ground rod was eliminated. There is now a correct distance of separation of the other 2 rods.

She also replaced the ground wire that goes to the telephone equipment. The power surge killed our modem, switch and router that is connected to this equipment. And previously killed our camera. This is the networking equipment.

We relocated the heliax inside the building to accommodate the new grounding system. All 4 polyphasers were replaced and now installed at the ends of heliax. The short lossy coax cables were replaced with good ones.

There are a few items left to correct. And another day at the tower is being planned.

There are still some issues with tower electrical. I am getting the tower engineer to see if they can be eliminated as well.

A ton of work, back breaking work, was accomplished that day. Huge thanks goes to Karen and Greg.



## Tower Updates

Tower Update! I have spent 2 full days at the tower dealing with NWS engineers, tower manager from Shreveport, as well as getting our equipment back up.

First of all, the air conditioners went out. This caused the building to heat to 100 degrees. The fan blades broke off the hub of the fan. There was only 1 fin out of 4 attached to the hub! The tower manager told me this morning, he contacted LG. They said there was a problem with manufacturing of the fan. They are sending 2 new fans. That happened to both AC window units. One unit was only 3 weeks old! And of course, there is not another one around. He has searched the country. He drove back to Shreveport yesterday, then returned with a portable cooler. I talked to him just now on the phone asking what the temperature was. The clubs weather station is now reporting 84.

Second, lightning must have hit the power. The NWS has 2 transmitters for redundancy, one of them is fried! Both internal breakers were also blown. There is now only 1 running; however, the one that is running, automatically shuts down due to the heat. Then it cools down, comes back up, then shuts down again.

Third, lightning hit the clubs' equipment as well. It zapped some ports on the Windstream modem and on the firewall router. After spending 2 days pulling my hair out, I realized the issue. The modem and router works independently; however, both ports that connect them together was blown. I was able to move all devices to the modem, bypassing the router. So Broadcastify and the Davis Weather Station is backup and operational. I still need to reconfigure the modem firewall to accommodate D-Star. Currently, D-Star should still work locally.

After spending 2 days in a real feel of 121 degrees (according to the clubs' weather station), I was well done! As soon as I recover, I will start working on getting D-Star accessible again.

As you can tell, a lot of things has happened. Now you know everything I know.



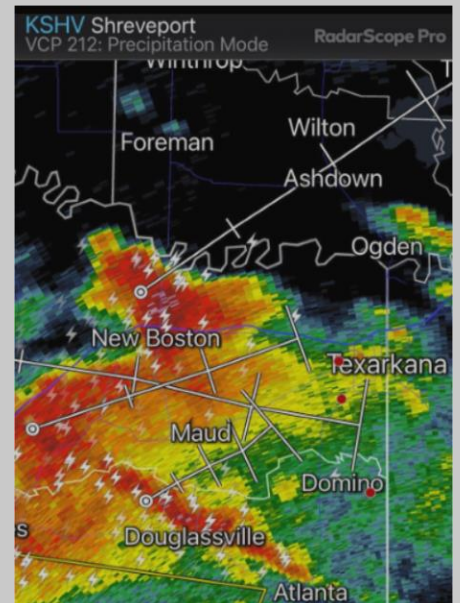
## Signal App



Signal app is a chat app that has become invaluable for the club. It is available for every platform, Android, iPhone, Windows and even Linux. It is FREE.

During severe storms, I am able to send radar pictures. Or if you need tech help, send a question, you will have the lot of people that is willing to help.

During the last week, the storms just kept coming. I was able to pass along radar images of incoming weather and weather alerts from the NWS.



1. Download the Signal App from your app store. Look for the Logo above.
2. Register. It's free.
3. Contact Greg KI5NHZ at [gregwaits@outlook.com](mailto:gregwaits@outlook.com). He will approve the registration.



## Welcome! Flyer

A very long time ago, I created an autoresponder. I don't know why, but never advertised it. Well, here it is. Send a blank email to either

[Info@4sarc.org](mailto:Info@4sarc.org) or  
[Information@4sarc.org](mailto:Information@4sarc.org)

You will receive an email with information about the club. Great for new hams!

Pass it out!



## Golden Corral is OPEN

The meetings are always held on the first Saturday of the month.

The August 5th, meeting will be held at GOLDEN CORRAL located on the access road of I-30 and Richmond Road.

We are running out of room in the meeting room we currently use which is a good problem to have. I have been talking with the managers. We will be able to meet in the open area where the ice cream is located. It will be a lot cooler as well.

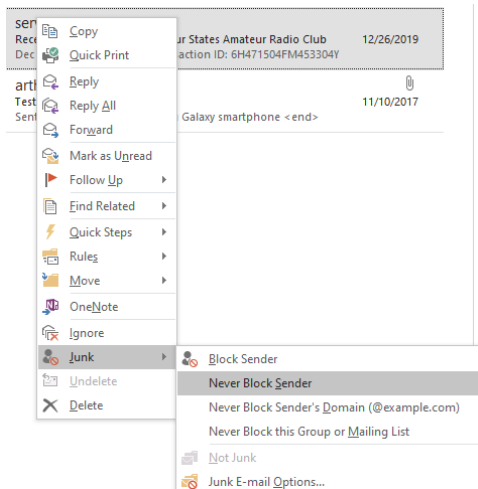
The meeting area is located to the right of the cashier, all the way to the wall. The meeting will begin at 9:30. You are encouraged to eat. They will allow us to meet in the meeting room along as the majority of us eat. They have just about every breakfast food you can think of. Eggs and Omelets made to order, bacon, sausage, waffles, pancakes, fruit, yogurt and a lot more. Coffee is available at the table, just tell the waiter. The doors open at 8am. Just watch for antennas in the parking lot!



## Newsletter to Junk Mail

If you are not getting this newsletter, this article won't do you any good!! (That's like saying "stand up if you're not here"). If you are getting the newsletter but repeatedly going to junk mail, then read on!

Depending on your email client you may have an option to change this behavior. The Microsoft Outlook client has this option. Simply right mouse click on the newsletter, look in Junk Mail, select Junk / Never Block Sender or Never Block Senders Domain or you may try Never Block this Group. It may say Add To Safe Senders List. There may be some other option that will work to.





## Broadcastify is Back!

If you are not familiar with Broadcastify, this is an audio streaming service. This is similar to YouTube, except it streams audio only over the internet. If you are traveling away from Texarkana, you can still listen to the 62 machine.

It is really easy to setup. There are 2 ways to listen. You may either listen to the traffic by website by going to <https://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/39186> or by phone app.

To use the phone app, download Broadcastify by RadioReference from your app store and search for 'KD5RCA' or 'Four States ARC'. There is about 30 seconds or longer delay.

If you are not familiar with it, many fire, police, ambulance, OEM and other agencies from around the country broadcast their traffic. So if a hurricane hits Florida or Texas, search for agencies in that area.



## Membership Renewal

It's time to renew. It's easy! If you are already a member, login as normally do, then click on Member Only / Member Detail. Your information should automatically populate.

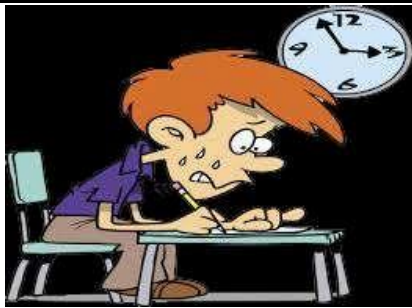
If you are not member yet, click on Register at the top of the home page.

You may pay by Paypal or by check, online or in person at the meeting.





Friday Morning breakfast at Johnny B's. They open at 6am!



Ready for your Technician or upgrade to General, or Extra?

Email us at [exam@4sarc.org](mailto:exam@4sarc.org)! It's that easy!



### Got NET?

Sunday	8:30	Daingerfield	145.230 / 151.4
Sunday	8:30	D-Star	REF 77A
Sunday	9:01	Nashville	147.045 / 107.2
Monday	8:20	Slow Scan TV	147.285 / 77
Tuesday	7:30	D-Star	REF 48B
Tuesday	8:00	Atlanta	145.390 / 100
Wed day	8:30	Longview	147.340 / 136.5
Thursday	7:30	Texarkana	146.620 / 100
Thursday	8:00	Shreveport	145.390 / 100

The Shreveport net is on the Freedom Link. You may check the [Freedom Link map](#) for a repeater near you.



### 2023 Club Officers

- President: Eric Richards
- Vice-President: Greg Waits
- Secretary: Adam Huggins
- Treasure: David Glenn
- Director 1: Karen Houston (2025)
- Director 2: Richard Arthur (2023)
- Director 3: Charles Conkey (2024)



If you have any news worthy items, you would like to include in the newsletter, email it to [newsletter@4sarc.org](mailto:newsletter@4sarc.org) before Tuesday.

Four States Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 7810  
Texarkana, TX 75505