



# Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 4

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## Officers

### President

Pat Bell KG5SC 793-3677

### Vice President

Wes Bolin WV5I 838-0568

### Secretary

Travis Bailey K5AVH 792-2080

### Treasurer

Bill Miller WD5HJF 772-2412

### Directors

Wes Bolin WV5I

Jack Goodson KA5IQB

Dan Griffin W5LTQ

Don Lynch NSDZ

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## Committees

### Activities

Don Lynch NSDZ 838-4155

### Field Day

Dick Curtis W5NEU 838-6028

### Flea Market

Malcolm Bussey KF5JX 773-9130

### Instructional Classes

Cap Caplinger WA5APY 832-1410

### Newsletter

Travis Bailey K5AVH 792-2080

### Packet

Hal Clark KF5YQ 772-8742

### Skywarn

Al Parsons KA5LPJ 832-2421

### VE Testing

Wes Bolin WV5I 838-0567

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Club meetings are held each Sat. Morning at 9am in the rear of the cafeteria on the 2nd floor of Wadley Hospital.

Business meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the same time and location.

Articles for the newsletter must be submitted to the editor no later than the first Saturday of each month.

## From The President

Pat Bell KG5SC

I got my first license back in 1968, operated for a couple of years, and then basically became inactive, preferring to raise a family with all the attendant duties and chores which makes it a full time job. Ham radio got put on a back shelf and for all practical purposes was forgotten. Then about a year and a half ago the old spark got rekindled. I really don't know what happened to renew my interest but something threw a switch in the old gray matter. Now here I was not having thought about hamming for at least 15 years and what little I ever known about radio I had forgotten.

But as luck would have it, I did the best thing I could have done, I went to a meeting of the Four States Amateur Radio Club. They took me in and have helped me in every possible way they could and what is really great is the fact that the club members have done it for a bunch of others. The point to all of this rambling is that I would like to say THANK YOU for all your help and I hope that I can return the favors some day. It makes me proud to be associated with a group of individuals of your caliber.

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## Why Do You Join An Organization ?

You don't buy a newspaper,  
you buy news.

You don't buy life insurance,  
you buy security.

You don't buy glasses,  
you buy vision.

You don't buy awnings,  
you buy shade.

You don't buy membership in an organization,  
you buy cooperation of people with whom you can join hands to do the things you cannot do alone.

## Digital Communications

Hal Clark KF5Y0

We had a good turn-out for the first packet meeting of the year with 12 individuals attending. During the meeting 7 members volunteered to be on the packet committee.

They are as follows:

Pat(KG5SC), Dave(N5MTO), Jack(KA5IQB), Wimpy(KB5GYR), Mike(KG5RV), Mark(KA5IJH), and Bill(KB5CTX).

Throughout the year we will be working on several projects to make packet even better for our area. One project is trying to find another site for the 145.01 digi. A suggestion was made to look into the possibility of using the tower owned by the Corp. of Engineers at Wright Patman Lake. The second project discussed was that of trying to decide on a radio to replace the one we are now using for TXK. The third project we talked about, which will probably be the first project done, is to raise and re-secure the antenna on the tower at Wadley Hospital.

NET/ROM operation was discussed during the meeting, and with the aid of Wimpy's portable packet set up we were able to demonstrate a little more in detail about how to use them. We also talked about the possibility of adding more memory to the TNC so that larger messages could be left on the mailbox.

Although these meetings will be called packet meetings and will be held every third Thursday of the month, we will also be talking about other forms of digital communications including AMTOR and BUADOT. If any one is interested in Packet or these other modes of operation we welcome you to attend.

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### Help Support your Club.....

The FSARC gets \$2.00 for each renewal and \$5.00 for each new member to the ARRL. If you are renewing your ARRL membership, make your check out to the FSARC and mail it to Bill Miller or give it to him, Pat, or Travis at one of the club meetings. New members, make your check payable to the ARRL and mail it to them along with the special application form available from any of the above officers. The ARRL will send the club a commission check. In order to maintain our ARRL affiliation we need to have

at least 51% of the club members to belong to the ARRL. If ALL our FSARC members join or renew their ARRL membership through our club, we will make an approximate income of anywhere from \$150.00 to \$300.00 this year from our club's affiliation with the ARRL. Think about it. Isn't this a good easy fund raising source.?

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### VE's Meet....

The local VE team met on March 16 to discuss ways of improving the VE testing sessions. One of the main ideas that came from this session was the need for more help outside the test room to be sure everyone is properly signed up and all paper work is completed before candidates are allowed into the testing area. These changes were implemented at the March 18 testing session as were found to be very effective.

Another idea that was presented was to consider the possibility of all of our current VE's also being certified by the ARRL VEC Program. Advanced Class license holders could also be accredited in the ARRL program to give Novice and Technician tests and to help in other administrative capacities. In the W5YI program only Extra Class license holders can be certified. Since there are only 4 Extra Class VE's who regularly work the sessions, and each session requires 3 VE's in the room during testing, we have been unable to give code tests in one class room and written in another as this would require 6 VE's. The thinking was that the ARRL VEC program might give us more VE's so that we could more effectively handle the larger testing sessions; however, no final decision was made on this.

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### VE Test Session

A VE Testing Session sponsored by FSARC was held on March 18 at Wadley Hospital. It was the largest that we have ever had with a total of 17 persons from Texarkana, New Boston, Bloomburg, Dequeen, and Oklahoma City being tested. A new registration procedure was

implemented at this session with some of the non-VE club members helping with registration and paper work prior to the applicants admission to the testing room. This system worked well and produced a more orderly and efficient testing session. Our thanks to Pat KG5SC, Jack KA5IQB, and Wimpy KB5GYR for their help. Also a special thanks to Wes WV5I, who is the VE Team leader. Wes has the final responsibility of making sure all the paperwork is correct before it is submitted to the VEC. This is a very time consuming job with lots of forms to be filled out and test papers to be matched with 610 forms.

Wes received a "You Did Good" certificate from W5YI for the paperwork that was sent in from the January 21 session which certified that there were no mistakes made for that session.

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### Renaming Extra Class Ham Ticket

The FCC has accepted for public comment the petition of Iowa amateur, Keith Greiner, AK0Q, of Des Moines. Greiner, a marketing research executive in the banking field, seeks to change the title which may be more widely recognized as having the highest rank among all amateur radio licenses. The proposed title is "Master of Communications". Greiner argues that people have always given names to awards, functions, jobs and levels of achievement. These titles help describe what the job or requirements and privileges are all about. Likewise, the titles describe to others what that job entails, or what was required to achieve the goal. For example, if one were to state that he was an "FCC Commissioner", another individual would very likely understand that this is a person charged with the making of national policies in matters of communication. Greiner says that the word "EXTRA" is a major unknown. "When we hear the word "Novice", we know that stands for a license designed for beginners. The word "technician" indicates that the individual has achieved some technical expertise, and is licensed accordingly. Likewise, the word "General" describes a license holder who has general privileges, while the word "advanced" describes a license holder who has achieved an advanced or "better than average" knowledge of subject of amateur radio." "Such a name as

'Extra' is so different from other titles of licensing or certification in any field that except for experienced amateur radio operators, it becomes counter productive in its original intent to provide an incentive to improve the level of knowledge and skill among radio amateurs. Unfortunately, it is more meaningful to a layman to state that a person has an 'Advanced' license, than it is to state that a person holds an 'Amateur Extra' license." Greiner adds "The title of 'Extra' does not come close to reflecting the many hours of study and practice required of amateur radio operators who wish to achieve its level. It does not come close to describing the level of professionalism these people attain, and their contributions made to amateur radio communications and corresponding contributions to the technical advancement of the United States or the contribution received and expected in areas of public service communications." Greiner feels that "the name 'Amateur extra' should be changed to something which communicates more of the distinction achieved, the professionalism achieved, and the degree of professionalism expected in the future for holders of this license. He includes the Webster New World Dictionary definition of 'master' to support his contention that the new top ham license class should be renamed to 'Master of Communications.'" "Master-A person very skilled and able in some work, profession, science, etc,' expert; specifically, a skilled workman or craftsman qualified to follow his trade independently..." The FCC has assigned file number RM-6648 and a 30 day public comment period to the Greiner Petition for Rulemaking. (This period has already expired. Ed.) Greiner, who holds an MBA (Master of Business Administration) degree from the University of Missouri, also mentioned that he did not feel there would be a conflict between the academic Master degree and Master of Communications because the latter is a license-somewhat similar to a Master Electrician or Plumber. "This change can only improve the stature and respect given to amateurs in general. 'Image' is very important. If amateur radio had a better image, I would speculate it might have been more difficult for UPS to succeed in their request for amateur frequencies".

..... from W5YI Report

## The Interviewer

After my first visit with your member, I begin wondering where a beginner in Wireless would acquire the knowledge to get started in something so new and so little understood. I decided to make another trip to visit him and get some answer to my questions. This visit took me back in time about 60 years. As I said before, the number of wireless experimenters had been growing before World War One and in 1914 Hiram P. Maxim started The American Radio Relay League which was designed to bring these experimenters together into a group that would relay messages around the country. At that time the average range of an amateur station was about one to two hundred miles so relays were necessary to communicate long distances. He also saw the need to pass on knowledge to beginners and did this in a magazine called QST. (QST was the general call preceding a message addressed to all amateurs and ARRL members. The ARRL did not own the magazine prior to World War I.) The ARRL was just beginning to influence Amateur wireless when the War broke out, and all Wireless operation was ban. This ban, which lasted until 1917, almost put an end to the ARRL and amateur radio as well. After the war ended ARRL began anew and one of their first actions was to buy QST from its former owners, and use it as a means of reestablishing communications with the former members. Also, much work was done by ARRL immediately after the War to get the transmitting ban, which was still in effect, lifted. (This era from 1914 to 1917 was a most critical time for Amateur Radio and maybe I can tell you about this period in more detail soon.) After the ban was lifted in 1917, amateurs, as they were now called, were given frequencies above 200 meters since these frequencies were considered useless at that time and the official attitude was "they can't get out of their own back yards on those frequencies". That was a big mistake because it didn't take long for the amateurs to learn to use these "useless" frequencies to communicate over longer and longer distances. The world was now our operating room! Radio was now the "in" thing and more information was available to the amateur. Also, newspapers and magazines were filled with articles about radio as commercial

radio began to flourish. The amateurs have been able to keep a large part of their frequencies for over 60 years because the government, during World War I and World War II recognized the value of a great reservoir of self trained radio operators that could be used in any emergency. Yes, this is how all the wireless experimenters came together to help one another and at the same time build a useful fraternity. Again, time has run out, but the next time I visit with you club member I will try to find out some of the problems of getting parts and the techniques that were used in constructing the equipment.

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## Reward....

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of hopalong oapacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a Weston Primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber. He is charged with induction of an 18-turn coil named Milli Henry, who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a motor over the wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band pass. If encountered he may offer series resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believe he returned here via a short circuit. He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend, Eddy Current, who was playing a harmonic 30. Please call 911n if you have any information.

... .. Submitted by George, AISM

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K6GE , operating on 15 meters, called CQ and signed his call with the phonetics "K6 George Easy Fox". An irate neighbor, experiencing TVI looked up George E. Fox in the phone book and raised oain with him.

## Business Meeting

Twenty One members attended the regular monthly Business Meeting of the Four States Amateur Radio Club which was held Saturday, April 8th at Wadley Hospital. Pat, KG5SC, called the meeting to order and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Briefly, the following was reported from the various committee heads: Al, KASLPJ, said that there were 2 Skywarn incidents this past month in which there was good participation. Wes, WV5I, reported only one error was made on all the paperwork that was submitted after the last VE test session. Hal, KF5YD, reminded everyone of the Digital Meeting every Third Thursday at 7pm and invited anyone interested to attend. Cap, WA5APY, said that he has study material for all class licenses, and anyone needing any of this material should contact him. Dick, W5NEU, reported that Lake Wright Patman had been selected as the site for field day again this year and asked for club approval to go ahead and reserve the site. This was approved by a club vote. Pat announced that the executive committee had decided to combine the Flea Market with field day this year since the same site could be used for both. He also reminded everyone of the new, club lunch meeting at Mr. Gatti's on State Line at 12 noon each Wednesday, and invited everyone to come whenever possible. Dave, NSMTO, asked for someone to take over as net control for the next couple of weeks and Al, KASLPJ, said he would do so. Time for the net will continue to be 8pm on Tuesday. Pat reported for Wimpy that the Scout-O-Rama plans are going well and that we will be set up in the Old McDonald Farm building for this event. Bill, W5HJF, reported that \$116.00 in dues had been received this month. Disbursements for the month were \$46.55 and the balance in the bank as of March 31 was \$1,475.00. He said that due to the high cost of mailing the newsletter, anyone who has not paid their dues by the end of April will not receive the newsletter after that date. Pat announced that due to a recent local TVI complaint, a TVI committee has been set up and Floyd, K5KQD, had agreed to head this committee. Pat also announced that he had information from Dan, ARRL Section Manager, about several jobs that needed to be filled in the ARRL field organization, and that anyone

interested in any of the jobs could contact him (Pat) for more information. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

### FSARC Club Dues

If there is not a "89" on your address label, then you have not renewed your dues and this will be the last newsletter you will receive. If you think that you have paid your dues, contact Bill Miller, W5HJF to verify your renewal. Remember, your dues are the backbone of this club. Please don't put it off. Renew now.

Basic Membership \$5.00

Basic+Repeater \$15.00

Basic+Repeater+Digi \$20.00

Each Additional Licensed Family Member \$1.00

## Shreveport Frequency Changed

By now most of you have probably heard that the .76 repeater in Shreveport is now on 146.67 and the old .67 machine which was located at the Fairgrounds in Shreveport is now temporarily off the air. John, N5JH reported that these changes were made so that the machine which was being used on .76 could be sent back to factory for modifications which would include an increase in power, a frequency change to 146.67, temperature compensation, and a new receiver pre-amp. As soon as this machine is returned from the factory, it will be returned to service on the KSLA tower; however, the frequency of this machine will be .67 instead of the old .76 frequency--In other words this is a permanent frequency change for this machine. This will also be the frequency that will be used for Skywarn from now on. When all this is completed, the machine that is now being used temporarily for .67 will be changed to .76 and returned to service at the Fairground location were it originally came from. There were two reasons for the frequency change. One was to eliminate some interference problems in Shreveport on .76 and the other was that the power of the .76

machine could not be increased without causing some potential problems with Paris which is on the same frequency. These changes may make it possible to get into the new .67 machine from Texarkana with a Handi-Talki. This would certainly be a great benefit during emergencies. The new .67 machine should be back and in operation soon after you get this letter.

### Editors Notes....

I would like to thank all of you who have had such nice things to say about the newsletter. The real credit goes to those who have contributed news, articles, and encouragement. I really appreciate your help. It sure makes my job a lot easier and certainly makes for a more well rounded newsletter. If you have submitted an article and have not seen it published yet, don't give up. I keep a file of these and use them as space permits, and as they tie in with something else, so please send anything you

have at any time. I still need some computer related items. Some of you have expressed an interest in this area, but I haven't received anything yet. From the survey forms which I received earlier in the year, it appears that IBM compatibles and Commodore 64's are the most used.

### Dates & Things to Remember

#### Lunch

Every Wednesday--12 Noon--- Mr. Gatti's

#### Digital (Packet) Meeting

Each 3rd Thursday--7pm Wadley Cafeteria

#### VE Test Sessions

June 13 New Boston High School Shop 7pm

June 17 Texarkana-Wadley Hosp.Cafeteria-9am

#### Skywarn Personnel

April Mike, N5LQV--Travis, K5AVH

May Mike, KB5EZT--Pat, KG5SC

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

### First Class Mail

If your label does not have a "89"  
Please renew