



Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 15

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Officers

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Pat Bell, KG5SC

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Activities

Camping - Bill Brakeen, WB5CTX

Transmitter Hunts- Bill, WD5HJF

Dining Out-Jerry Shriver

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

March 31 is almost upon us and as most of you know that is the date of the First Texarkana Swap Meet to be held at the Four States Fair Grounds.

This is an event that can grow into something that we, the members, can be very proud. But like everything else it will take a concerted effort on the part of all the members to make it a success. Please help when asked or better still why don't you volunteer by calling Wimpy or Cap?

In addition to helping with the various jobs it will be very important to have a lot of merchandise for the visitors to look over. Not having any goodies will kill the event quicker than anything. So clean out the closet and bring it on out.

Digital Talk

Hal, KF5YO

Thanks to Jim (KB5KBA), we now have another digipeater in the area. Its located in New Boston with an I.D. of KB5KBA-1 and a myalias of NB. It will be operational 24 hours a day and will soon be equipped with a NET/ROM chip which has been ordered by Jim and will be installed by Marland (W5LAN) who by the way has been a big help in getting the digi going. Jim said that the digi is open to anyone for any use whether its general QSO'S, sending programs, or any other packet use. Thanks again Jim and the New Boston Club for a job well done.

Dangerfield is in the process of also putting up a digi. A temporary digi was set up there to see the results and it looked like a favorable location for a digi. AS more information on the Dangerfield site comes in I will relay it on KF5YO-2 mailbox.

Packet is not the only thing going around here on the HF bands.

Dave (N5MTO) has been having a lot of fun lately with AMTOR and BAUDOT and has some good DX in his log book to prove it. For those that have the all mode TNC's there is a lot out there to have fun with.

I would like to remind everyone that we are still

having our packet nets on Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m.. We have been getting several check-ins but would like to see a whole lot more.

Mark your calendars and join us.

Texas Amateur License Plates

Texas House Bill 2409 has been signed into law by Governor Clements which allows licensed Texas radio amateurs to have more than one motor vehicle with their call sign on the license plates.

The bill was sponsored by Representative Pete Patterson. Section 5 of an "Act Relating to Issuance of Specially Designed License Plates" reads as follows: "An owner may register under this Act more than one vehicle equipped with mobile amateur radio equipment.

The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation shall issue license amateur call sign letters to each vehicle registered under this Act by the same owner.

Texas amateurs need to request a special license plate application form from the: Division of Motor Vehicles, 40th and Jackson Avenue, Austin Texas 78779- 0001, Attention: Special Plates Division.

..... From The W5YI Report

DXing

Pat, KG5SC

The ARRL DX Contest was held the weekend of March 3-4 and several of the club members tried their hand at working a few countries. Some members reported making in excess of 100 contacts with 60+ countries worked. Many of the contacts were made with just 100 watts. Most contacts don't take a lot of power because the DX stations are looking to make contacts and will pick up the weaker signals.

For those of you that would like to get your country count up, you have a good opportunity the weekend of March 24-25. That is the weekend of the CQ WPX World Wide Contest. The exchange with the other station will be a signal report plus a progressive 3 digit contact number.

Give it a try, you'll be surprised how good you will do.

Business Meeting

The March Business Meeting of the Four States Amateur Radio Club was held on Saturday March 10. Twenty Five members and 4 visitors were in attendance. The minutes from the February meeting were approved as printed in the February newsletter.

Bill, WD5HJF reported \$819.26 in the bank at the end of the month and said 53 members had paid their dues at the end February and another 9 had paid since the end of February for a total paid membership as of March 10 of 62.

Reports were given by the various committee heads. Hal reported that there is a new digipeater in operation now in New Boston. Wimpy said he will need some help at the upcoming Flea Market and ask any who could help to contact him. Bill said the Transmitter Hunt has been rescheduled for March 25th. Dave proposed the starting the week of Daylight Saving time, the net time be changed to 8:30pm on Tuesday as a new year round time. This was approved.

Dave Hall, Bowie Miller County Emergency Co-ordinator was in attendance and asked for volunteers to help man the emergency communications command post at BJC in times of a Declared Emergency. Anyone interested should contact Pat, KG5SC.

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

Net Control

Dave, N5MT0

Don't have too much to report on this go round. Totally forgot last months newsletter and almost forgot about this one until I heard Travis mention the deadline.

Dick (W5NEU) is doing a great job as voice net controller for the month of March. Wes (WV5I) also did an excellent job in February.

I will take the net control spot again for the month of April and then some probably. The situation at work has changed again so I am not tied up working weeknights like I was earlier in the year. Do appreciate all the folks who has been checking into the net and petition others in the club to check in on a regular basis.

As the time change once again approaches it will be time to change the FSARC net. Here is some food for thought.. change the time of the net to 8:30pm Tuesday and leave it there for

all seasons.

This would be, what I think, a happy medium for winter and summer months. It would save those first few weeks of confusion when the time changes for members and all to check in. The results of voting will be announced on the net and in the next newsletter. (The time changed was approved at the March Business Meeting.)

Antenna Selection

Yes, W5I

What is the best Antenna?

Don, WA5RMD asked me that the other day, and I said that it depended on what we want to do and who we want to talk to. Everybody has an opinion, usually based on emotion rather than the laws of physics, and some folks who have tried many different types under different conditions at different locations with different equipment have opinions also. So, with that in mind, I'll give you some of my opinions hopefully based on scientific principles (the difference between a 73 article and a QST article).

Let's look at it band by band, and see merits of different types of antennas.

VHF&UHF--Vertical polarization for FM, horizontally polarized for SSB. Mobile-1/4 or 5/8 Whip. I prefer 1/4 Base-Local:Vertical or vertical beam. DX: Big high long horizontal beam.

80 Meters-Local: Dipole or Inverted Vee up 50 Feet. DX:Dipole up 1/2 wave or more or vertical with many radials-above the ground and in the clear.

I've used a dipole at 95 feet in direct comparison with 50 ft mast loaded as a vertical with 64 1/4 wave radials above ground. I prefer the dipole.

40 Meters- Same as 80 meters but dipole can be lower for local work. Also the 50 foot vertical used on 40 meters with 1/2 wave radials. I prefer the vertical.

20 Meters-

Local/Stateside/Caribbean/South America:

Dipole or vertical, not too high (30-40 Feet)

DX:

- A. High antenna with gain and no amplifier
- B. Low antenna with gain and big amplifier
- C. High antenna with gain and big Amplifier
- D. Real high antenna system with real big amplifier. Minimum height is 50 feet. High

antenna is 80-130 feet. Real high antenna is 160 feet or more with multiple antennas stacked.

Three factors are involved in DXing:

1. How many countries can you talk to
2. How much time can you spend in the shack calling to work these countries
3. Do you want to be #1 in the pileups I prefer a beam antenna at 80-90 feet for ease of erection and cost.

I prefer to use monoband beams if possible. I have worked barefoot, used 500 watts out, 900 watts out and 1500 watts out. I prefer the legal limit.

10 and 15 Meters: Same as 20 meters. A good antenna optimized on 20 meters will work well on 15 meters and 10 meters if it is a tribander or a stacked monobander situation.

I have omitted many types and styles of antennas in this discussion, even some of your favorites.

If you have a good performer, why not write us an article on it?

For Sale:

Icom-725..less than 1 year old, with 500Hz CW filter. Mobile mike is Astatic amplified, and desk mike is Icom SM-5 with Heil element for more punch. Works great mobile and base. Also have mobile bracket and service manual. Original packing. \$700.00 Wes, W5I (214) 838-0568

For Sale

Butternut HFB-5 Butterfly Beam Antenna. Works on 10,12,15,17,and 20 meters. Light and compact. Like new. Works great. \$140.00 Travis, K5AVH (214) 792-2080

For Sale

2 Zenith Z-100 computers with 20 meg hard drives and 768K memory. Like new. Excellent Business Machines. Will run MS-DOS or CPM. Not IBM compatible however will run most business software and many other IBM programs. Lots of software included. Also have Zenith wide carriage 180 CPS printer. Call for more details and super low price. Travis K5AVH (214)792-2080

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, YD5HJF 18 Highland Hills Texarkana, Ar 75502

Calendar

FSARC 2m Net (146.62)

Lunch

Digital Net (145.01 Packet)

DX Net (146.55 Simplex)

Skywarn Seminar

CQ VPX Contest

Transmitter Hunt

1st Annual Flea Market

Dining Out

VE Testing

Each Tuesday 8pm (Swap Net Follows)

Each Wednesday 12 noon Mr. Gatti's State Line

Each Thursday Night 8:30pm

Daily 7-8am and 5:30 pm until

Thursday March 22 7pm Prescott, Ar Courthouse

6pm Fri-6pm Sun Mar 23-25 (Local Time)

Sunday March 25 1:30pm

Sat March 31st 10am Four States Fairgrounds

Saturday April 21 6pm (place to be announced)

Monday May 14 7pm New Boston High School

Saturday May 19 9am Wadley Hospital Cafeteria

Skywarn

Dave, N5MTO

Dick, W5NEU

Mike, N5LQV

Travis, K5AVH

March

April

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

First Class Mail