



The Peanut Whistle

The Monthly Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Club of Parker County

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 29 NO. 5

MAY 2019 ISSUE

ARCPC OFF

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*FIELD DAY 2019
VACANT*

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*REGISTERED AGENT
JERRY THOMPSON W7JT*

*RACES-ARES
TONY GUESS N5NRU*

*VE TESTING
DOUG MAY WB5VQQ*

*ARRL
WEST GULF-NTX STAFF
DIR JOHN STRATTON N5AUS
V-DIR LEE COOPER W5LHC
SM STEVEN SMITH KG5VK*

HAMVENTION TO OPEN GATES ON SUNDAY

By W8HJR, Media Chairman 04/15/2019 [Event Information](#)

Those who have wondered what brings about 30,000 amateur radio operators to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio, in May will have a chance to see for themselves at no cost this year.

Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, 2019 Hamvention General Chairman, said, "We have decided to open the doors to Hamvention to the public on Sunday, May 19, without buying a ticket. This will make it a little easier and cheaper for someone with just a little interest in Hamvention to see what all the excitement is about."

In addition to the amateur radio equipment which attracts all the ham radio operators, there are also vendors selling a variety of other electronic equipment including computers and accessories, security devices networking supplies, tools and many other items of interest to the general public. Those visiting the flea market area will be surprised at what's available, often at a small fraction of its original cost.

The chairman said that Sunday is Hamvention's lightest traffic day, making it convenient for anyone who just wants check out what's there. Many vendors have final day specials on a variety of items. The many food trucks offer a wide selection of menus, providing residents with a chance to make Hamvention 2019 a family outing.

Hamvention hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. While some parking will be available at the fairgrounds, much of it is weather dependent. Visitors are urged to use one of the remote lots with free shuttles. They are located at Hobson Freedom Park, 2910 Trebein Road, Fairborn, OH 45325; Xenia High School, 303 Kinsey Road, Xenia, 45383; Warner Middle School' 600 Buckskin Trail, Xenia, OH, 45385 and Xenia Towne Square, 84 Xenia Towne Square, Xenia, OH, 45385. Buses run from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Anyone wanting to receive current information on a cell phone during Hamvention about traffic, parking, weather conditions and other facts affecting the event is encouraged to sign up for the text alerts by texting Hamvention19 to 888777. Thanks to Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS, for making the alerts possible again this year.

From the Hamvention Website

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Ham Fests/Conventions

HAMFEST/CONVENTION
05/11/2019 | [Emory Tailgate Hamfest](#)

Location: Emory, TX
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Rains Amateur Radio Association
Website: <http://w5ent.org>

06/07/2019 | [West Gulf Division Convention \(Ham-Com 2019\)](#)

Location: Plano, TX
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Ham-Com, Inc.
Website: <http://www.hamcom.org>

ARCPC VE TESTING

VE testing for all license classes and upgrades will be conducted on the third Monday of each month, except November and December.

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Douglas E. May WB5VQQ
(817) 613-7289
Email: dougmay@uwmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: What-a-Burger off of I20
Weatherford TX 76086

ARCPC HOSPITALITY



Cookies & Coffee

14 MAY 2019
Meeting

Judy Wolf



Jake Sez!

“If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure. “

LICENSING CLASS
04/27/2019 | [Mansfield TX 76063](#)

Start/End Dates: 04/27/2019 - 05/11/2019
Times: 8:30am to 4:00pm
of Sessions: 3
Class level: General

LICENSING CLASS
05/06/2019 | [Midlothian TX 76065](#)

Start/End Dates: 05/06/2019 - 05/29/2019
Times: 7pm to 9pm
of Sessions: 8
Class level: Technician

LICENSING CLASS
05/28/2019 | [Garland TX 75040](#)
Start/End Dates: 05/28/2019 - 06/25/2019
Times: 7pm until 9pm, 5 Tuesday Nights in a Row
of Sessions: 5
Class level: General

ARCPC MEETING MINUTES



Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
Amateur Radio Club of Parker County
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Vice President Daryl Pate, KC5SLQ, at the Parker County Emergency Management (EOC) Building, 215 Trinity Street, Weatherford. President Thad Weikal, KG5ATD was unavailable due to unavoidable work requirements, but he listened in via phone.

The invocation was given by our Vice President. The Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas State Flag was mostly self-led. The Secretary provided a digital representation of the American and Texas State flags on his computer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Introductions:

Vice President Daryl Pate initiated introductions around the meeting tables. A total of 13 members were present for the meeting and no visitors.

Meeting minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting as published in the April monthly "Peanut Whistle" newsletter was requested but not voted upon.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Jay Cox, KG5BZW, gave the secretary/treasurer's report. We have 27 members and 17 life members noted as of this meeting.

A motion to accept the treasurers report was made by Bob Ballard, KG5SQJ, and seconded by Will Teague, W5KD. Motion carried.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW BUSINESS

We briefly discussed the postcard advertisement proposal (in particular passing around the list of those we might send a postcard). Will Teague (later in the meeting) noted the W7MD website could be useful for this project.

We discussed the March 16th Ham radio class. Four or five students came in the morning, and one came in the afternoon. The Springtown/Azle newspaper required no cost for our announcement we placed in it.

We discussed the March 26th SKYWARN class.

We discussed three events occurring on the upcoming weekend:

- * The April 13th Boy Scout "Camporee" in the Brazos Valley/Glen Rose area.
- * The Texas State Parks on the Air April 13th and April 14th
- * The April 13th Special Olympics event.

ARCPC MEETING MINUTES

We discussed the need for amateur radio volunteers for the upcoming Ride For Heroes Aledo-based bicycle ride occurring on May 11th.

We conducted a discussion on Field Day. Jack Nixon, KG5BBW, mentions we could host the event at Brock Fire Station #2 on Dennis Road. The club members affirmed it would be a good place to hold the event. So Jack Nixon went about the business of making sure we could use the location.

Later in the meeting, Jack confirmed approval for the location! Will Teague, W5KD, made a motion that we hold Field Day at the Brock Fire Station #2. Wendell Holden seconded the motion. The motion carried. We are holding Field Day at the Fire Station!

We briefly discussed the November 2 hamfest. We need to get necessary information to the ARRL so that it can be published in their hamfest list.

We discussed how to update/modify our website so that multiple people could update it. VP Daryl Pate mentioned he was given GoDaddy account information related to the website. Secretary Jay Cox is to give a report as to what our options could be.

The question of "Should we provide another Ham class?" was discussed.

At our last monthly testing session, one person took his Technician and passed.

VP Daryl Pate suggests we ought to do some sort of ham event in a park.

We briefly discussed our 2-meter nets. Also, the 2-meter simplex is back to 9:00pm on Monday nets.

We briefly discussed our past ARRL Special Services club designation and how we can get that renewed.

May Meeting we will have Elections!

TRAINING & ADJOURNMENT:

Bob Ballard, KG5SQJ, made a motion that we adjourn. Jack Nixon, KG5BBW seconded that motion, and we adjourned.

We had no after meeting presentation, but Will Teague did show off his ham radio mobile setup. (Other possible presentations were planned but the presenters were not available.)

Respectfully submitted,
By Jay Cox, KG5BZW
Secretary/Treasurer

Foundations of Amateur Radio #202

Antennas out of sight and out of mind ...

Previously I've spoken about the dynamic nature of your station. Even if from day to day use, nothing changes, things around you are always in flux. Propagation changes, power fluctuates and the environment in which your antenna operates is dynamic. Mobile stations even more so.

A few days ago we had a gale come through, strong enough to do some major damage, rip off some roofs, break some trees, cause flooding, cause power outages, plummeting temperatures, the first of the Winter Storms.

Obviously, checking out your antenna after such an event is expected. Better still, stowing your gear before the event is even better.

Such extreme weather events are an obvious trigger to attending to antenna health and well being, not to mention, maintenance and repair.

The thing is, it's not the only time you should check out your antenna. Every day it's subject to change. The sun rises in the East, follows its path along the sky and eventually sets in the West. The temperature and humidity change throughout the day and continue to change through the night and the next day it starts all over again.

Peppered with sun, rain, snow, salt, corrosion, expansion and contraction, your faithful antenna sits there ready for you to get on air and make noise, until one day it isn't.

You could just wait until it falls down, dies, perhaps becomes a hazard to anyone within gravity range, not to mention, destroy your radio when you key it up. Or you could check your antenna regularly and look after it. Inspect and test it regularly, run you analyser across it every couple of months, you know the drill.

Most antennas are out of sight for most of their life, but they should never be out of mind.

During the weekly F-troop net we started discussing this - as well as an in depth conversation about launching wire into trees - and there were several suggestions worth investigating.

One amateur pointed out that the level of complexity in the air dictates the amount of maintenance. A log periodic antenna on a rotator needs more Tender Loving Care than a wire hanging off a tree.

Another suggested that you should regularly check the tower supports - technically the mast supports - a tower is self-standing and a mast is not - the best way to remember is that is the Eiffel Tower doesn't have any guy wires.

Before a storm, if you have warning, you should check the supports, wind down anything that goes up and down and you should think about how you're going to earth the coax. I've previously covered the weirdness that lightning and charge represents, even at distance, so don't wait until it's overhead.

There were suggestions of using spark plugs and Mason Jars, but I've got no supporting evidence either way. My geek background is sceptical, but I'm open to learning more.

I've seen installations where a coax switch is used where the antenna is switched to a shorted socket, so the inner and outer braid of the coax are connected to each other.

One amateur suggested that an antenna tuner is cheaper than a radio, and that if you leave it in place during a storm, blowing that up is cheaper than blowing up a radio, but your mileage may vary. Also, if you have spare cash to burn, I'm happy to take your donation and relieve you of that fire hazard.

It's interesting in and of itself that antenna maintenance is often discussed in terms of extremes, lighting, storm, wind, ice, etc. and less so in terms of regular maintenance.

Finally, if you're only using a temporary antenna, you're not exempt from this. You're actually likely to have more failure, since the act of erecting and lowering of the antenna is likely to cause more wear and tear.

The antenna is the final part of the transmission chain and it should be treated with the same respect as the power supply at the other end.

I'm **Onno**

From Southgate Amateur Radio News

VK6FLAB

Hams Help Trace “Mystery” Signal Disrupting Keyless Entry Devices in Ohio



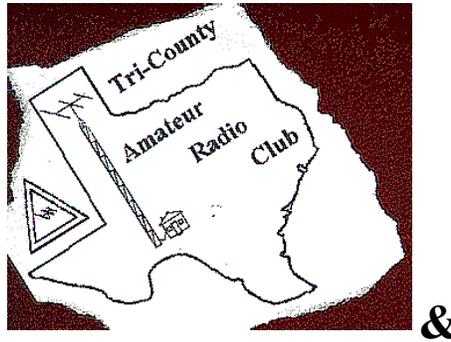
05/07/2019

A recent article in *The New York Times* reported that many garage door openers and keyless vehicle entry fobs in an Ohio town near Cleveland mysteriously stopped working. While the article invoked *The X-Files* and hinted initially that a NASA research center somehow could be involved, the cause was not so much mystifying as arcane. “Garage door repair people, local ham radio enthusiasts, and other volunteer investigators descended on the neighborhood with various meters,” the May 4 article by Heather Murphy recounted. “Everyone agreed that something powerful was interfering with the radio frequency that many fobs rely on, but no one could identify the source.”

More than a dozen residents reported intermittent issues getting their key fobs and garage door openers to operate, and most lived within a few blocks of each other. At one point, the local power utility started shutting off power to areas where the strongest RF signal was detected, but the signal persisted. Dan Dalessandro, WB8ZQH, a TV repairer, was among several hams who investigated. He initially picked up “little blips” on a signal detector, but finally, on one block and at a particular house, the signal was quite loud.

“The source of the problem was a homebrew, battery-operated device designed by a local resident to alert him if someone was upstairs when he was working in his basement,” the *Times* reported. “It did so by turning off a light.” The individual, who, the article said, has special needs, was not identified for privacy concerns. The inventor, who had no malicious intent, had no inkling that his device was wreaking havoc on the neighborhood until a North Olmstead City Council member and a volunteer knocked on his door. The device operated on 315 MHz, the frequency many keyless-entry devices use under FCC Part 15 rules. The device’s battery was removed, the signal stopped, and all who were involved breathed sighs of relief.

From the ARRL Website



Present

Parker County Hamfest & Emergency Preparedness Expo

Featuring:

Indoor/Outdoor Swap meet

HAM LICENSE TESTING

Hourly Prizes

Grand prize—new Yaesu ft7900

Lectures

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019

8am-noon

Location—Cornerstone Community Church

2233 E Hwy 199

(Jacksboro highway just SE of Springtown)

Talk-in 147.16+ pl tone 110.9

443.2+ pl tone 110.9

sell your extra ham equipment

see updated info: w5pc.org or wc5c.org

Admission \$1, free with public service uniform. Free parking.

Setup Friday nite 7-9pm by appt or Sat morning 7am

\$5 per table

Reserve your table—cqpate@gmail.com

Additional grand prize tickets \$1. Must be present to win.



W5PC

www.w5pc.org

**AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1795
WEATHERFORD, TX 76086-7795**

ARCPC INFORMATION NET

Mondays at 8:00 pm on 147.040 (Tone 110.9)

WC5C Net

Thursdays at 8:00 pm on 147.1600+ (Tone 110.9)

MEETINGS

The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County holds general membership meetings Throughout the year on a monthly basis the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00pm at the Parker County EOC 215 Trinity Street, Weatherford, Texas 76086.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
LICENSE CLASS: (E)(A)(G)(T)(N) ARRL MEMBER: (YES) (NO) STATUS: (NEW) (RENEWAL)
(CIRCLE APPLICABLE ANSWERS ON ABOVE LINE)

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP (plus 4): _____
PHONE: HOME: _____ WORK: _____

INITIATION FEE: One time initiation fee per family - \$5.00

ANNUAL DUES: \$15.00. HAM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$20.00

(+ 1 same household or full time college student)

(Add an additional \$5.00 if you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter).

HAM FAMILY MEMBER NAME: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

Cut out and mail this application to the ARCPC Secretary/Treasurer along with you check or money order for the amount due. Or, bring it to the next regular club meeting.