

# K5PRK Newsletter



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## December meeting and Christmas Party location changed

Please plan to attend this year's **December meeting and Christmas Party** which will be held on the third Monday, the 16th, at the [Golden Corral, 3425 Premier Drive](#) in Plano. The Corral is on the opposite side of 75, slightly north of Furrs, where our past Christmas meetings have been held, and is basically across the highway from COSCO, in the area behind the Red Lobster which is on the southbound service road. Premier Drive runs north and south parallel to the service road and can be accessed from the service road or from Parker or Spring Creek. It is hoped that our members will turn out in large numbers to check out the new site, share the evening and enjoy the great food and fun. As in the past, members will accommodate their own entry fee including senior discount if applicable. The meeting area is to the left of the registers at the east end of the restaurant. All are urged to attend, starting at 5:30 at which time member sign-ins will commence to include any dues payments wishing to be made and of course the all-important raffle ticket purchases. The only main differences this year are the location and the difference in food presentation and selections offered, all of which is sure to win your approval.

One very important item to remember is too **PLEASE take care of the Corral staff** who are assigned to be working our area. This is our inaugural visit with Golden Corral and if all goes as well as expected, we would like to be allowed back again next year without paying any upfront fees generally required to cover the efforts of staff who are assigned to groups like ours. In lieu of the fee, I assured Golden Corral that our members would take care of their table staff, so **PLEASE remember to be as accordingly generous as possible with your individual gratuities.**

Looking forward to greeting and seeing everyone there on the 16th.

November 2019

### PARK Board Meeting

November 11, 7:00 PM

### PARK General Meeting

November 18, 7:00 PM

#### Making a Home-Brew

#### Buddipole

- Mike Wideman KG5MCC

## Repeaters

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub operates five repeaters, which are located in Allen, Texas about 180 feet above ground level. All licensed amateur operators are welcome to join us on the air. All repeaters are open.

147.180 MHz + (PL 107.2)  
K5PRK VHF Voice Repeater

444.250 MHz + (PL 79.7)  
K5PRK UHF Voice Repeater

441.575 MHz +  
DStar UHF Digital Voice Port B

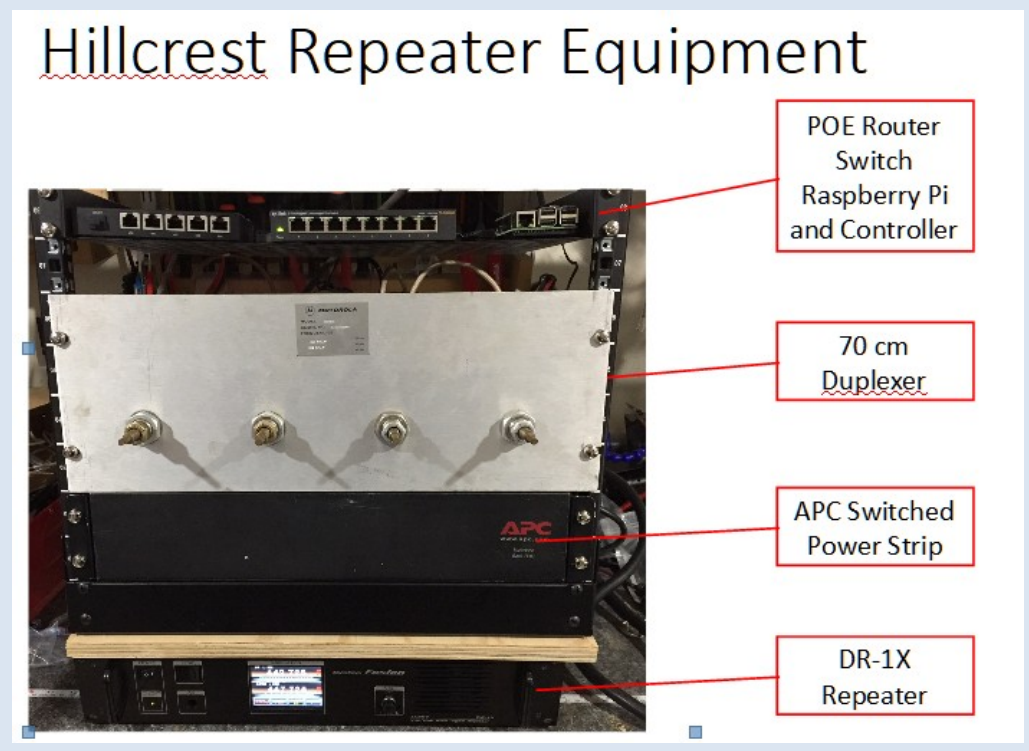
1295.000 MHz – 20.000  
DStar 23cm Digital Voice Port B

1255.000 MHz  
DStar 23cm Digital Data

## Hilcrest Repeater Update

Starting at the bottom is the Yaesu DR-1X repeater. This is one the factory refurbished units. It is capable of both analog and fusion operations. We intend to operate it mainly as an analog repeater. The next unit up the stack is an APC Power Distribution unit. This allows us to individually switch components on and off via remote control. It also allows for the monitoring of the current draw of the devices. Next component is the duplexer. This was removed from the old repeater at Allen. It will be retuned and reused. The top shelf contains the networking and control equipment. This will provide for the IP routing and switching. It will also power the link equipment located on the tower top. This shelf also has the Raspberry Pi and RIM-Lite controller used to control the repeater and link to the Allstar system.

Tony



### Hilcrest Repeater Equipment

POE Router Switch  
Raspberry Pi  
and Controller

70 cm  
Duplexer

APC Switched  
Power Strip

DR-1X  
Repeater

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## TX BEST & UIL Championships - Volunteers Needed

From: [Dave W8OV](#)

If you are interested in volunteering to help out with the TX BEST & UIL Robotics Championships at Comerica Center (formerly Dr. Pepper Arena) in Frisco, the dates are **December 5, 6, and 7 (Thursday - Saturday)**.

Some of the positions can be done from home in the couple of weeks before those dates. Other volunteers are needed at Comerica Center on those dates. Please note, these are *not* radio communications because they do not need much of that at this location.

A list of positions where volunteers are needed, and descriptions of those jobs, is attached.

A map showing the location of Comerica Center can be found at: <http://bit.ly/ComericaPrkng>

To volunteer, you must **sign-up at**: <https://www.utdallas.edu/best/volunteers>

If you sign-up, be sure to email (or bring) the "**Medical, Talent, and Liability Release**" form. Contact [dave.w8ov@gmail.com](mailto:dave.w8ov@gmail.com) for the form.

Lunch (and breakfast for early arrivals) will be served.

The Middle and High School robot builders will appreciate your help, as will the BEST organizers.

73,

Dave, W8OV

## Upcoming Activities

**Nov 28** – Meals on Wheels

**Dec 5, 6, and 7** TX BEST & UIL Robotics Championships (see above for info)

**Dec 25** – Meals on Wheels

## Don't forget about Saturday morning

Late Riser's Breakfast – 6:30 am at  
Poor Richards Café – Plano, Texas

No Name Riser Breakfast – 9:00 am at  
Two Rows – Allen, Texas

## Future Programs

December 16 - Annual Christmas Party at Golden Corral

January 20 - Weather Trends for 2020 – Roy Ponder

## November 2019

On November 9, 2019 the West Gulf Division had a **Simulated Emergency Test (SET)**. I was with the RRCAG in Saginaw, TX. We had VHF Winlink packet station for people to send email to and we could relay them to Austin area using HF and Pactor III modems. The Section Emergency Coordinator, Greg Evans K5GTX was with us also, receiving Winlink emails addressed to him. Greg reported he could hear the 147.18 PARK VHF repeater on his truck. One of the other guys tried it and could not hear it with our outdoor VHF antenna on a 15-foot mast. There was a metal building in the way. I had thrown in a 4 element VHF beam into the truck at the last minute. I had some metal poles that put together and set it up, so I was past the edge of the building. I think it is about 19 feet above the ground. There is a picture of it.

I pointed it west and was able to talk to Noreen and Tony W5ADC on the K5PRK 147.18 repeater. It is estimated to be about 42 miles with hills in between. John Galvin N5TIM and I transcribed a message from the Garland 146.66 VHF repeaters with this setup also. It is estimated to be about 41 miles to Garland again with hills in between. For fun, I asked Tony to switch to the UHF 444.250 repeater. I was able to hear him on the UHF repeater. He could not with this setup, probably because it was a VHF only beam.

### Kipton Moravec AE5IB



### Support those that support K5PRK

#### Main Trading Co.

<http://www.maintradingcompany.com/>  
2246 Bonham St., Paris TX., 75460

#### Poor Richard's Café

<http://www.poorrichardscafe.com/>  
2442 K Avenue Plano, TX., 75074

#### Cavanaugh Flight Museum

<http://www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com/>  
4572 Claire Chennault, Addison TX., 75001

#### Bavarian Grill

<http://www.bavariangrill.com/>  
221 West Parker Rd., Plano TX., 75023

#### Bullet Trap. INC.

<http://www.bullettrapinc.com/>  
2608 K Avenue, Plano TX., 75074

#### Furr's Fresh Buffet

<http://www.furrs.net/>  
1900 North Central Expressway Plano 75074

#### Country Burger

<http://www.countryburgertx.com/>  
3115 W. Parker Rd. #500, Plano TX., 75023

#### Plano Super Bowl

<http://www.planosuperbowl.com/>  
2521 K Avenue, Plano TX., 75074

#### Two Rows Classic Grill

<http://www.tworows.com/>  
711 Central Expressway, Allen TX., 75013

#### Greek Isles Grille and Tavern

<http://greekislesgrille.com/>  
3309 N. Central Expressway #370, Plano TX., 75023

#### Chartered Financial Strategies LLC (Sean Monohan)

Tax Services - Business and Individual  
<http://www.cfscorp.net/>  
4686 McDermott Rd. #206, Plano TX., 75024

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## Local and Some HF Area Nets

### MARC Nets

**Sunday 8:00 PM – General Information Net** – we ask participants about their week in ham radio and their thoughts on a question of interest to the ham community. W5MRC

Repeater, (146,740 MHz, offset -0.600 MHz, tone 110.9)

**Monday 8:30 PM – Simplex net** – see how far your VHF radio can go without a repeater

Along with general discussion. 146.520 MHz Since this is simplex, no offset or tone are Required.

**1st and 3rd Mondays 8:00 PM - The MARC Ladies Net** – All radio amateurs are welcome.

W5MRC repeater (146.740 MHz, offset -0.600 MHz, tone 110.9)

### Collin County ARES Nets

Collin County Amateur Radio Emergency Service conducts two training nets each month.

You do not need to be an ARES member to participate, all radio amateurs are welcome.

**1st Sunday 9:00 PM - Collin County ARES** - K5PRK repeater, (147.180 MHz, offset +0.600 MHz, tone 107.2 Hz)

**3rd Sunday 9:00 PM – Collin County ARES** - W5MRC repeater, (146.740 MHz, offset - 0.600 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz)

### SARA Nets

**Wednesdays 8:00 PM – Ham Radio in Sachse** – Weekly “On-The-Air” Information Net called “Ham Radio in Sachse”. N5LOC Repeater (145.25MHz, PL Tone 141.3Hz, Offset - 0.600 MHz)

**2nd and 4th Sundays 9:00 PM - Sachse Public Service Net** – ARES, RACES & Other Public Service Emergency Responders (like local CERT groups) Training. N5LOC Repeater (145.250 PL Tone 141.3 Offset -0.60MHz)

### GARC Nets

**Thursday 8:00 PM – Info net** – The Garland Amateur Radio Club holds an informal net open to all amateur radio operators. The net begins with check in and general announcements, followed by general discussion.

K5QHD Repeater (146.66 MHz, PL Tone 110.9 Hz, Offset -0.600 MHz)

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### **North Texas Hospital Net**

North Texas Hospital radio club weekly nets check in with area hospitals. Friday mornings (time TBD 8:30 am or 9 am). Jimmy Dominguez is NCS. 442.400/146.700. Regular splits PL tones 110.9/110.9. All are welcome to check in from your QTH as individual.

Attention; The North Central Texas Healthcare ARC net begins at 0830 Friday and moves to 146.700, the past Fridays the 146.700 repeater has been down, with uncertainty when the 146.700 repeater will be back online, the North Texas Central Healthcare ARC will only have the 442.400 portion of the net.

### **HF Nets**

**Daily Net 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM** – The Maritime Mobile Service Network – Any licensed ham (General Class or higher) can check in. This net is focused on assisting those who are maritime mobile and over the years, several distress calls have been handled by this net.14.300

**Sunday 2:00 PM – Amateur Radio Satellite Net** - Open net for licensed amateur satellite discussion and updates 14.282

**Daily Net – OMISS** – Focused on awards, particularly Worked All State (1:30 PM frequency 14.290) (8:00 PM frequency 7.185)

Many more nets are listed here <http://ac6v.com.htm>

### **Overland Bound**

Weekly Net Every Friday night at 7:30 PM Central Time – A net for people who like to explore and take part in overland camping – hosted on the USA Grits-N-Gravy Conference Server (USA-GNG) Echolink Node: 591550 <http://www.usagritsngravy.net>

If you want to list your favorite net. Please send as much information you can to [KG5NAV@gmail.com](mailto:KG5NAV@gmail.com)

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## [What is Amateur Radio](#) (Ham Radio?) from ARRL

(Thanks Johnnie Young)

Amateur radio is a multifaceted hobby that includes people around the world. There are about 740,000 ham radio operators in the US. The FCC has allocated [30 different frequency bands](#) from 135 KHz to greater than 275 GHz to amateur radio operators. These frequency bands are used for many different aspects of the hobby.

Some videos describing Amateur Radio:

<https://youtu.be/ysOq6ywTSzU>

<https://youtu.be/rs0i0h4OyMo>

[https://youtu.be/5Z9136\\_Nhh4](https://youtu.be/5Z9136_Nhh4) - Classic Walter Cronkite video

### Licensing:

There are [3 levels of ham radio licensing](#) in the US, Technician, General and Extra. Each level requires passing a multiple choice exam. The questions used for these exams are all [published on the web](#).

### Study Aids:

Students can study for their license exam(s) in several different ways.

- Take a class
- Study training books. These are two of the most popular
  - [ARRL Technician Study Guide](#)
  - [Gordon West 2018 to 2022 Technician Class](#)
- View video classes
  - [https://youtu.be/RGluTpM7\\_K8](https://youtu.be/RGluTpM7_K8)
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6aFXH\\_SQUo&list=PL07A7D1C9D7BF7F48](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6aFXH_SQUo&list=PL07A7D1C9D7BF7F48)
- Take practice Exams
  - <https://www.eham.net/exams>

### Taking the Exam:

Exams are offered by many clubs [around the metroplex](#). The Sachse club gives exams 9:00 [each 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at the Wylie Masonic Lodge](#).

### Other Ham Radio Related Links:

Sachse Radio Club: <http://www.sachseradio.org/>

Largest/Oldest Ham Radio Org: <http://www.arrl.org/home>

Local Ham Radio Outlet Store <https://www.hamradio.com/locations.cfm?storeid=20>

Finding a nearby Club: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>

Ham Radio Mesh Network: <https://www.arednmesh.org/aredn-advantage>

Amateur Radio Satellites: <https://www.amsat.org/>

Ham Radio Repeaters: <https://www.repeaterbook.com/>

### Other videos:

HAM Radios: Quick and Easy Way to Get Into HAM Radio Hobby: <https://youtu.be/t0sMDRLGB3Q>

HAM Radio Basics- HAM 101: <https://youtu.be/Ow1hxClR5J8>

Numerous Dave Casler Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaBtYooQdmNzq63eID8RaLQ>

SPACE STATION CREW USES HAM RADIO TO CALL EARTH [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/H73EYCYSZF8](https://youtu.be/H73EYCYSZF8)

Listen to episodes of ARRL Audio News on your iOS or Android podcast app, or online at <https://blubrry.com/arrlaudionews/>

## November 2019

### Various Ham Radio Activities:

- Local/Regional communications
- World wide communications using Digital network linked repeaters
- World wide radio to radio communications
- [Contests](#) - Making as many contacts as possible
- Fox hunts - Finding a hidden transmitter
- Amateur Radio Satellite
- Supporting local events
  - Races (marathons, bike races, etc.)
  - Plano balloon festival
  - Parades
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July events
- Extending RC aircraft video and telemetry
- Amateur Radio Emergency Data network (Network when the grid goes down.)
- Winlink - Email via ham radio
- Skywarn - Storm spotters (Most storm spotters report via ham radio.)
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)
- Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)
- Antenna design/building
- CW (Morse code) communications
- DXpeditions - Location in an remote area (usually islands) for a short period of time and making as many contacts as possible.
- Summit On the Air - Transmitting from mountain summits
- JOTA - Jamboree-on-the-Air - Boy Scouts
- RF experimentation. Many [Maker groups](#)
- [High altitude balloon experiment](#).



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This is my first newsletter. I will be learning on the job.

I need your help. please help with the next newsletter. This is the club newsletter, so we need your pictures letters and articles. Let me know what you want. If you feel strongly about an issue and want to let people know what you think, write a letter to the editor. It's simple and democratic. Please be sure to follow these criteria:

- Be courteous
- Stick to the facts
- Be concise (50 -150 words)

All letters must be signed and provided a call sign if possible. The editor reserves the right to select which letters are published. The editor may also require revisions or removal of parts that do not meet the above criteria or for content deemed inappropriate by the editor. This is the same rigor that the rest of the newsletter is subjected to.

Send email to [newsletter@k5prk.net](mailto:newsletter@k5prk.net)

73

Neil, NE5IL