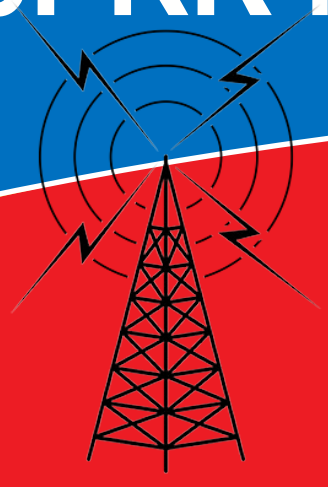


February 2020

K5PRK Newsletter



[K5PRK.Net](#)

[Facebook](#)

[IO Group](#)



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Sean Kelly, W5SPK
- [Vice President:](#)
Tim Johnson, K5TCJ
- [Secretary:](#)
Daryl Morgeson, AF5QJ
- [Treasurer:](#)
Ross Watson AF5QK
- [Activities Director:](#)
Tony Campbell, W5ADC
- [Communications Director:](#)
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- [Webmaster](#)
John Hatch, KF5BSS
- [Public Relations:](#)
Brian Trant, KF5VFM
- [Newsletter Editor:](#)
Neil Gould, NE5IL

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Future Club Meeting Programs

February 17	Parks On the Air	Andrew Barns - W5KZJ
March 16	Using a 3D printer	Tony Campbell - W5ADC
April 20	APRS	Kipton Moravec - AE5IB
May 18	How to work a Satellite	Tim Johnson - K5TCJ

Followup sessions, if applicable, are being planned for the Saturday after each meeting to further expand on the program subject. Details will be announced at each meeting.

February 2020

PARK 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

Broadcastify
[K5PRK 444.250](#)
[K5PRK 147.18](#)

Text to Morse Code MP3 conversion

Some of you may have heard my smart phone ringer. I used the above link to create it. I created “CQ CQ CQ NE5IL NE5IL NE5IL”. You can create any text you want to have a personal and unique ringer. I know there are many no-code hams but it still can be fun to have. [NE5IL](#)

Text to Morse Code MP3 conversion	
<input type="radio"/> Slow	5 WPM, characters at farnsworth 15 WPM
<input type="radio"/> Medium	12 WPM, characters at farnsworth 18 WPM
<input type="radio"/> Fast	18 WPM - Farnsworth rate forced to 18 WPM
<input type="radio"/> Extra Fast	20 WPM - Farnsworth rate forced to 18 WPM
<input type="radio"/> Custom	Rate (5-50 WPM) <input type="text" value="5"/>
	Character (Farnsworth) Rate (5-50 WPM) <input type="text" value="15"/>
Tone Frequency (40-2000 Hz) <input type="text" value="1000"/>	
Enter your text to be converted in the box below, up to 200 characters in length	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>	
Create an mp3 file from this text <input type="text" value="200"/> characters left	

February 2020

ARRL News

On the Air Magazine

On the Air is a suite of ARRL benefits for new ham radio licensees, anchored by the ARRL bimonthly magazine, *On the Air*. The magazine covers a range of ham radio interests and topics, delivering introductory techniques and stories to help anyone with a beginner-to-intermediate-level of experience. From making your first radio contact to selecting the right equipment to project building and getting involved with public service or your local clubs, *On the Air* magazine and its suite of companion benefits will help you make the most of your amateur radio license. Get active, get involved, get On the Air! If you are not an ARRL member, join!

[Read On the Air magazine \(Members-only\)](#)

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 GET ACTIVE GET INVOLVED

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On the Cover
 Be ready for winter storms before they happen. Take a moment on a fair winter day to make sure you can hit the local repeater with your handheld radio.

On this Page
 As hams, we love antennas. You can't play radio without them! These towers rising into a wintry mist are commercial antennas, but fundamentally, they're no different from the antennas we use in our amateur pursuits.

Join ARRL
or Renew your Membership

February 2020

ARRL is inviting nominations for awards that recognize educational and technological pursuits in amateur radio. Nominations are also open for the League's premier award to honor a young licensee.

•**The Hiram Percy Maxim Award** recognizes a radio amateur and ARRL member younger than age 21, whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of amateur radio activities.

Nominations for this award are made through ARRL Section Managers, who will forward nominations to ARRL Headquarters. The deadline is March 31, 2020.

•**The ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award** honors an ARRL volunteer amateur radio instructor or ARRL professional classroom teacher who uses creative instructional approaches and reflects the highest values of the amateur radio community. The award highlights quality of and commitment to licensing instruction. Nominations are due by March 16, 2020.

•**The ARRL Microwave Development Award** pays tribute to a radio amateur or group of radio amateurs who contribute to the development of the amateur radio microwave bands. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2020.

•**The ARRL Technical Service Award** recognizes an individual radio amateur or group of radio amateurs who provide amateur radio technical assistance or training. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2020.

•**The ARRL Technical Innovation Award** is conferred on an individual radio amateur or group of radio amateurs who develop and apply new technical ideas or techniques in amateur radio. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2020.

•**The Knight Distinguished Service Award** recognizes exceptional contributions by a Section Manager to the health and vitality of ARRL. The nomination deadline is April 30, 2020.

The ARRL Board of Directors selects award recipients, and winners are typically announced following the Board's July meeting. [More information](#) about these awards on the ARRL website, or contact [Steve Ewald, WV1X](#), telephone (860) 594-0265.

February 2020

PARK Winter Field Day Results

[Winter Field Day rules](#)

Winter Field Day was a success for the first one with minimal equipment. Plano Super Bowl worked out fine with a nice, clean, warm room right by the north door. The Buddy Pole was set up right outside the door as you can see in the photo. Setup only took less than 30 minutes. We operated from about 1pm until 5pm Saturday on 20 meters. We started with the antenna as a horizontal dipole. We made a few contacts but it was very tough. We decided to try it as a vertical which took only 10 minutes to change to. This did seem to make a good difference. We only made 22 contacts total using the hunt and peck method. But we did work 20 different ARRL sections, which is what we concentrated on. We worked both coasts and in between and Alaska and Hawaii. We also worked N3FJP, the author of the field day logging software. It was kind of funny that he has an 'easter egg' in the software that popped up when we entered him in the log. It told us to say HI!

While not gang buster results we proved that we could set up quickly and communicate around the country when needed.

Thanks to Daryl, Ross, Kip, Tony, Brian, and the others that came out to check it out. Also thanks to [Plano Super Bowl](#) for the use of the room.



February 2020

What is SKYWARN®?

Thursday Feb 13	Hunt	Greenville	F. Warren Civic Center	6:00-8:00 PM
Saturday Feb 15	Dallas	Garland	Granville Arts Center	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Tuesday Feb 18	Johnson	Keene	Perecho Hall- Southwestern Adventist University	6:00-8:00 PM
Thursday Feb 20	Grayson	Denison	Grayson College Center for Workplace Learning Auditorium	6:00-8:00 PM
Saturday Feb 22	Denton	Denton	Texas Womans University-MCL 101	8:00 AM - 12 Noon
Monday Feb 24	Hood	Granbury	ShowBiz Cinema	7:00-9:00 PM
Tuesday Feb 25	Hill	Hillsboro	Church on the Hill	6:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday Feb 26	Fannin	Bonham	Finley-Oates Elementary	6:00-8:00 PM
Thursday Feb 27	Mills	Goldthwaite	Mills County Law Enforcement Center	6:00-8:00 PM
Saturday Feb 29	Parker	Weatherford	Weatherford College - Mince Auditorium	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Monday Mar 2	Stephens	Breckenridge	Texas State Technical College	6:00-8:00 PM
Tuesday Mar 3	Van Zandt	Grand Saline	Training Building (318 N. Saline)	6:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday Mar 4	Lampasas	Lampasas	County Annex (409 S Pecan)	6:00-8:00 PM
Thursday Mar 5	Ellis	Waxahachie	Coleman Jr High Fine Arts Center	6:30-8:30 PM
Monday Mar 9	Young	Graham	North Central Texas College	6:00-8:00 PM
Tuesday Mar 10	Erath	Stephenville	TAMU Agrilife Research & Extension Center	6:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday Mar 11	Kaufman	Kaufman	City of Kaufman Central Fire Station	7:00-9:00 PM
Thursday Mar 12	Jack	Jacksboro	Jacksboro Fire Dept	6:00-8:00 PM

Preparedness and Storm Spotter Information

A NWS page with a huge amount of information!

February 2020

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

Technician License Ham Radio Class

The Plano and Lucas Amateur Radio Clubs will be presenting an Amateur Radio Technician License class on Thursday and Friday, March 19th - 20th, 2020. The class will be held at the Texas Health Resources Presbyterian Hospital in Plano TX. The class times will be between 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM both days, with Amateur Radio license testing starting on Friday afternoon at 3:00PM. The hospital is located at 6200 W. Parker Rd. in Plano, just West of the Dallas North Tollway. As always the class is free, the exam is \$14.00 cash. Other amateur radio class license exams (General or Extra) will also be available for those wishing to take those exams.

A government issued photo ID will be required to take the exam on the Friday afternoon of the exam. You must also know your social security number. (an FCC Requirement).

Our course material is based on the "Ham Radio School's Technician License" Study Guide, by Stu Turner. Study guides are available locally at the Ham Radio Outlet store 701 E. Plano Parkway Suite406, across the street from Fry's Electronics in Plano, or online at amazon.com. While we will cover all the material necessary to pass the exam during the course, the class moves very quickly. We would strongly encourage all students to prepare by reviewing one of the study guides, and taking online Technician License practice exams prior to the class. The cost for the study guide should be around \$23.00. It helps if it is not the first time you have seen the material.

If you prepare by reading through the study guide at least once, and marking any items that you have questions about, and then pay attention and ask questions during the two day training class, there is an excellent probability that you will pass the exam with a high score.

TO REGISTER, for this class, please contact your THR training/safety representative.

This class is open to the public. If you are not a THR employee, or if you have any additional questions, TO REGISTER, please send an email to Mike Pruden at (NN5ZZ@ARRL.NET). Please provide your NAME, EMAIL ADDRESS, and TELEPHONE NUMBER, in case we need to reach out to you with any changes. Please register as soon as possible, so we can ensure we have enough interest to hold the class.

Thanks, Mike Pruden NN5ZZ@ARRL.NET

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

Bullet Trap. INC.

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

February 2020



Apr. 18 Mentor Fest

Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Location: Hella Shrine Center, 2121 Rowlett Rd., Garland, TX 75043

The Garland Hella Hams and the ARRL North Texas Section would like to invite all current and prospective Hams to attend Mentorfest! This event is a great way for Hams, especially those recently licensed, to meet and learn about a variety of subjects. Amateur radio operators have a great tradition of helping each other learn about and gain experience in the many facets of the hobby. Mentorfest is designed to build on this tradition by providing a

place for Hams of all ages and experience levels to come together, exchange knowledge and make new friends while having fun and enjoying the

great hobby of Amateur Radio.

- Here are some of the things you can expect at Mentorfest...
- Formal presentations on a number of topics.
- Local clubs providing information on their activities.
- “Elmers” (ham-speak for mentors) available for informal discussions on just about any topic.
- Tours of emergency communications vehicles.
- Representatives from the ARRL, ARES/RACES, REACT, National Weather Service and others showing how you can get involved.

Amateur License Testing - 1:00p - 4:00p

If you wish to test for a new license, or upgrade your existing license, bring \$14 and a photo ID.

February 2020

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)

2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Simplex Net

146.40

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)

February 2020

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 newsletter@k5prk.net

February 2020

[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 - 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://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 2nd 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)

February 2020

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

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
 - 4th 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](#).

February 2020

Member Spotlight

Neil Gould NE5IL

I recently passed being licensed 50 years. I got my novice license in August 1969 at 14 years old with the call WN5ZGC. At that time you had to upgrade within 2 years to keep your call. There was no local exam program. My parents had to take me to Lubbock and Dallas, from Midland, to take the General exam when the FCC scheduled them. I barely made the 2 years to become WA5ZGC as a General.

After graduating high school and before starting at TAMU I went on the TAMU 'Summer School at Sea'. It was 12 weeks at sea and ports. Because of my license I was able to help the ship radio operator instead of scrubbing the decks. We went to the Mediterranean, among many other ports. I was able to operate from the ship as the DX. It was great. I was also able to get my dad interested and he got his license. I then passed the Advanced test which I still have.

At TAMU I was active with the W5AC club station. I was famous for being on the club 2m local repeater when I got back-ended in my car and using a curse word on the air. The club was very active with the bonfire. I graduated in 1977 with the Bachelors in Electrical Engineering.

I worked for McDonnell-Douglas for 18 months at NASA at the beginning of the Shuttle program. Then I worked for Texas Instruments for 19 years until we were sold to Raytheon. I retired last year as an IT nerd. I am married almost 40 years with 2 sons, both married, and 2 granddaughters. Coincidentally, Nell KA5PHN, was working in maternity at Plano Medical 33 years ago and helped with the birth of my younger son. We have been friends (and Bob K5MVZ too) ever since.

As soon as vanity calls were allowed for Advanced class holders I jumped on NE5IL for my call.

When my sons were involved with Boy Scouts I organized and helped with many JOTA events along with many other PARK club members.

I like working Field Day and the 10 meter contest when the bands allow. I do remember some incredible sun spot cycles over the past 50 years. I have the Flex 3000 SDR radio and a Diamond vertical mounted to my fence post. I don't do many but I also like to help at public service events. After retiring I decided to pay back PARK when the Newsletter editor position became open.

73,
Neil

I would like to publish a member spotlight each month. If you would like to let others know more about yourself please consider writing up an article. Send it to me, newsletter@k5prk.net, by the 1st of the month.

February 2020

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

73

Neil, NE5IL

K5PRK.Net

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IO Group