

July 2020



K5PRK Newsletter

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K5PRK.Net [Facebook](#) [IO Group](#)



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Special Zoom Meeting Notice

Monday July 20th, 2020 - 7:00 pm

[Bill Swan](#) and MARS

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82415368264?pwd=aTI2Y1VMbnp5bE1Pd1d3WDZJYm9tQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 1536 8264

Passcode: 837986

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,82415368264#,,,,,0#,,837986# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,82415368264#,,,,,0#,,837986# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 824 1536 8264

Passcode: 837986

July 2020

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Future Club Meeting Programs:

July 20	MARS	Bill Swan K5MWC
Aug 17	Intro to DMR	Jason Johnston KC5HWL
Sept 21	Fox Hunting	Billy Parkinson KG5RQZ

July 2020

Ollie Casteel AF5QX, SK

With great sorrow Ollie Casteel, AF5QX passed away July 4th in his sleep. Ollie had just had a pace-maker and heart valve surgery that past week and was doing well, until that evening.

Ollie's body has been donated to a medical school so he can help others help future patients
You may send cards to:

Sue Casteel and Family
4305 Jerker Drive
Plano, Texas 75074

If you send a card or letter, please include your Call Sign. This will let Sue know who you are.
Thank you **Michael Payne** for keeping us informed and allowing us the means to contact Sue.
More information about Ollie's life will be presented at the July 20 meeting.

73 and 88 from the PARK Board



July 2020

The program for the July General Meeting will be on the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) presented by **Bill Swan K5MWC**.

Bill knows a little bit about Amateur Radio. He was:

- * Licensed in September 1957 - Call KN5MWC
- * Current Call/License Class - K5MWC/Advanced
- * Life Member of American Radio Relay League (ARRL)
- * Founding Member of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) - November 1972
- * Served as PARK Treasurer and President
- * Started Collin County ARES - March 1975
- * Emergency Coordinator (EC) Collin County - March 1975 to 2000
- * Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for the 68 counties that make up the North Texas Section - 2000 to 2010
- * Appointed Assistant Director for EMCOMM in the ARRL West Gulf Division - 2010 to 2013
- * Texas State RACES District Radio Officer for District 13
- * Texas State RACES Region Radio Officer for Region 1 that includes Districts 4 Garland, 4 Hurst and 22

Sherman

- * Served on and Chaired committees concerning the drafting of antenna ordinances for the City of Plano
- * Completed ARRL courses Emergency Communications (EC)01 through 03 (All of the offered courses)
- * Completed a number of FEMA courses including NIMS 700, ICS100, ICS200 and ICS400
- * Previous Member of the FEMA RECCWG for Region VI
- * Member of Army MARS
- * Serve as POC and Entity Approval Liaison between Army MARS Region 6 and the Region 6 DHS Shared Resources High Frequency Radio (SHARES) network

July 2020

Monday Informal Club Get Together

In addition to the regular monthly meetings we have had informal Zoom meeting on most other Monday evenings. An email is sent out each Monday with the Zoom info. These meeting have been well attended and provide another way for us to keep in touch.

Tony sends out the Zoom info each Monday there is a meeting.

LINKS FOR INFORMATION PRESENTED MONDAY JULY 6TH

Check K5PRK for the Zoom recording 'maybe'. It is being worked on now to upload.

RTL-SDR Information:

Short History

Chip Set was developed for DVB-T TV standard used in Europe

<https://www.rtl-sdr.com/about-rtl-sdr/>

Hardware 25MHz to 1,700

MHz https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B079C3FHGP/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

\$31.95

Software

Quick Start Guide

<https://www.rtl-sdr.com/rtl-sdr-quick-start-guide/>

SDR Sharp (SDR#)

<https://airspy.com/download/>

Spectrum Analyser

<https://github.com/pavels/spektrum/releases>

RF Demo Kit for the nanoVNA

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/RF-Demo-Kit-For-NanoVNA-VNA-RF-Test-board-Vector-Network-Test-Filter-Attenuator/274360428863?ssPageName=STRK%3AMEBIDX%3AIT&trksid=p2057872.m2749.l2649>

\$24.00 There are lower cost options if you would like to purchase them from China via eBay

Information

http://www.sysjoint.com/en/list/?79_1.html

<http://www.sysjoint.com/en/content/?134.html>

Tony

W5ADC

July 2020

PARK Field Day 2020

Results will be discussed during the July Zoom meeting.

Coordinator: Mike Tharp KG5TJF

mikeltharp@aol.com

Home scores submitted to the newsletter:

Call Used: **NE5IL** ARRL/RAC Section: NTX Class: 1D

Participants: 1 Club/Group Name: K5PRK

Power Source(s): Commercial Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 380

Bonus Points:

Entry submitted via web 50

Total bonus points 50

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
20m	41	100	12	100		
15m	20	100	21	100		
10m	3	100	4	100		
TOTAL	0	64		37		

Flex 3000 connected to a Dell laptop to a Diamond CP6 multi-band vertical



I had a fun time putting my station through a workout. It has been awhile. Hopefully this will be a unique year but I feel that it was still a good test of Amateur Radio's ability to provide communications during an emergency.

July 2020

Call Used: **W8OV** ARRL/RAC Section: NTX Class: 1E

Participants: 1 Club/Group Name: Plano AR Klub

Power Source(s): Solar Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 1,150

Bonus Points:

100% emergency power 100

W1AW Field Day message 100 - Documented by 2020 ARRL Bulletin.txt

Natural power QSOs completed 100 - Documented by W8OV 2020 Field Day.log

Entry submitted via web 50

Total bonus points 350

Score Summary: (Cabrillo log/dupe sheet file: W8OV.dup)

CW Digital Phone Total

Total QSOs 200

Total Points 400 Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 800

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

CW Digital Phone

QSOs Pwr(W) QSOs Pwr(W) QSOs Pwr(W)

40m-62 20m-90 15m-32 10m-16 TOTAL 200

Submitted by: David Koch, W8OV w8ov@verizon.net

Really nice job Dave...Neil

I can't put fiberglass pole for field day, so been using compromised antenna, it's hard and I did not operate many hours

I got 66 QSO on 15 20 40 band, all in CW

Antonin, **NT5TT**

I made 15 total contacts on 40 20 using SSB FT8 and PSK

Asif **KG5CUX**

We operated as 3D, and our point total came to 1196.

Katherine **KT5KMF**

July 2020



(Article courtesy the SARA Newsletter)

Are you getting bored having to stay home most of the time? Not getting enough ham these days? A great way to get out of the house safely is to participate in the weekend fox-hunts sponsored by the Richardson Wireless Klub [RWK]. Driver and I are the new fox masters for "Wheatley", one of the two current fox transmitters. We usually put him out Friday evening somewhere with-in the city limits of Richardson. He transmits every 3 minutes on 433.50 MHz. The other fox transmits eve-ry 4 minutes, usually on 144.50 MHz. A message is posted in the K5RWK@groups.io once a fox is hidden and transmitting. Once you find either one, there is a QR code attached that you can scan with your phone that allows you to be logged as having found it. Touch-less!

If you find them, there may even be prizes involved... You don't have to be an RWK member to be entered to win, but you have to be a ham. Joining the RWK to support this activity is encouraged and dues are a paltry \$15/year for individuals, \$20 for families and \$5 for full time

students. It's easy to do at www.hamclubonline.com (apply using club code RWK after you sign up) and dues can be paid with any major credit card via PayPal secure checkout (no PayPal account required). Already a member of another club? Then double your fun and knowledge and join!

73,

Katherine, KT5KMF



Our September meeting will be more info on fox hunting by
Billy Parkinson KG5RQZ

July 2020

Why CW?????

By Johnnie Young (KG5CQO)

Why CW? Once I became interested in Ham Radio, I wanted Ham Radio the old way; tubes, CW etcetera. I felt that a radio with all the components that did the work for you was cheating. So, I decided I would do the one thing I could learn by practice, CW. It sounded musical to me and when I started to practice it reminded me of when I learned to type. Say the letter hit the key. CW, hear the letter, say or write it. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat. There are many different ways to go about learning CW, so there is a way that will work for you. I learned the sounds of the characters first on my own, but I have always done better when I can be part of a class and ask questions. I took a beginner class with CW Academy with a mentor from the PARK group. The key is to commit the time and practice, practice, practice. After all this is a new skill that will work best when you can do it without thinking, like typing. I did pass the beginner class but did not take the next class, Basic, because I did not feel like I was ready. I had to do hard thinking to remember the sounds of the characters. When I was ready to sign up for the Basic class, my mentor told me about a beginner class I could audit. Thus, I participated and practiced, practiced, practiced and got better and closer to instant recognition to the sounds of the characters. I improved and passed again, better this time. I am to the point where I can copy code as long as it is not sent fast, if it is sent slow. I am starting to get on the air, which is highly recommended. Besides learning the sounds of the characters, you will learn short ways to send some words. Reminds me of texting. So now I will start The Basic Class in June. This class works some more on instant recognition and on increasing you copying skills. I am still not where I want to be with my copy skills. Many times, I miss a lot of the transmission. Add to that the noise level and the speed of the sender and it can sound very foreign. But, I know, if I continue to practice, practice, practice and get on the air, I will get better and better. If you are interested, I will help in any way I can. Just remember this is a commitment on your part. You must practice every day and continue to practice each new skill until you can do code without thinking, like typing. But it sure is lots of fun and when you understand your first CW QSO, what a great feeling of 'I did it!' (--... ...--) that is code for 73



July 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](#)

Short Takes

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>

Participate in this ground breaking, virtual international amateur radio expo. Packed with world renowned speakers, exhibitors, and special conference rooms built on a virtual reality platform. Attend from the convenience of your desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone on: August 8 and 9



For more information or to register, visit the [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) website. Attendance is free, and there are early bird prize incentives for registering by July 24.

The Uncertain Future of Ham Radio

Software-defined radio and cheap hardware are shaking up a hobby long associated with engineering

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/wireless/the-uncertain-future-of-ham-radio>

July 2020

ARRL News

ARRL magazines

QST - ARRL's Monthly Membership Journal - www.arrl.org/qst

On the Air - NEW! Beginner to intermediate level help and advice - www.arrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine

QEX - The Forum for Communications Experimenters - www.arrl.org/QEX

NCJ - National Contest Journal - www.arrl.org/NCJ



ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest episode of the On the Air podcast (Episode 5) focuses on the various types of modulation and tips on go-kits. The On the Air podcast is a monthly companion to On the Air magazine, ARRL's magazine for beginner-to-intermediate ham radio operators.

ARRL Podcasts Schedule



The latest episode of the *On the Air* podcast (Episode 7) features tips for soldering a PL-259 connector onto the end of a coaxial cable, and information on beginner courses for hams who want to serve their communities during disasters and other incidents. The *On the Air* podcast is a monthly companion to *On the Air* magazine, ARRL's magazine for beginner-to-intermediate ham radio operators.

The latest episode of the *Eclectic Tech* podcast (Episode 11), available on Thursday, July 2, will cover [Shortwave Radiogram](#), web-based remote receivers, and [PSKreporter](#).

The *On the Air* and *Eclectic Tech* podcasts are sponsored by Icom. Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry -- [On the Air](#) | [Eclectic Tech](#).



July 2020



Oct 17 Mentor Fest rescheduled

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.

July 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, 1(47.180 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 (Sachse Amateur Radio Association) 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)

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Simplex Net 146.40 – Temporarily suspended

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)

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.

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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

July 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>

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Numerous Dave Casler Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaBtYooQdmNzq63eID8RaLQ>
SPACE STATION CREW USES HAM RADIO TO CALL EARTH <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/>

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](#).