

Sep 2020



# K5PRK Newsletter

## Social Media

[K5PRK.Net](http://K5PRK.Net) [Facebook](#) [IO Group](#)



## Officers

President:

**Sean Kelly, W5SPK**

Vice President:

**Tim Johnson, K5TCJ**

Secretary:

**Daryl Morgeson, AF5QJ**

Treasurer:

**Ross Watson AF5QK**

Activities Director:

**Tony Campbell, W5ADC**

Communications Director:

**Kipton Moravec, AE5IB**

Webmaster

**John Hatch, KF5BSS**

Public Relations:

**Brian Trant, KF5VFM**

Newsletter Editor:

**Neil Gould, NE5IL**

## Special Zoom Meeting Notice

**Monday Oct 19, 2020 - 7:00 pm**

**North Texas Section Update - Steve Smith – KG5VK**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81905180658?pwd=ZDZrdTAzRVErbzFPSUhNOUZIWIjE0UT09>

Meeting ID: 819 0518 0658

Passcode: 688641

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,81905180658#,,,,,0#,,688641# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,81905180658#,,,,,0#,,688641# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 819 0518 0658

Passcode: 688641

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[Short Takes](#) – several items you may have missed

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Mentor Fest has been Cancelled

[Area Nets](#)

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## October Officer Elections

### Officer Positions due this year:

Vice President – Tim Johnson, willing to serve again

Secretary – Johnnie Young

Newsletter – Neil Gould, willing to serve again

Public Relations Director– Brian Trant willing to serve again

Communications Director– Kip Moravec, willing to serve again

Nominations will be accepted during the Oct 19 meeting

### Future Club Meeting Programs:

Nov 16	TBD	
Dec 21	TBD – No 'normal' Christmas Party	

NOTE: The monthly board meeting will be moving to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month starting Nov 2. Anyone may attend. A Zoom meeting announcement will be sent out a day before.

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2020: ACCEPTANCE OF CHAOS OR CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE  
Sean P. Kelly – W5SPK

**NOTE: Below is a reprint from last month because not much of a response was received. Please read and let your board know what you can do and/or please [pay your 2021 dues](#) soon.**

With a break in the action at Amphenol Corporation, I thought it best to share some reflections with all of you. My friends, we are now deep into the seventh month of the Coronavirus pandemic. Our use of language is littered with trite and overwrought phrases like “these challenging times” and “these uncertain times.” Our institutions demand PPE and social distancing. Our culture and practices remain self-centered and materialistic as ever. Some have called this year a moving train wreck on fire. At times, it has been hard to argue against the use of such a metaphor. However, the history of this great and blessed republic is replete with examples of such trials improving our culture, virtues and traditions. Some of our greatest historical events have fueled our most productive periods. From the Great Depression, WWII, and the 1960’s emerged a nation stronger than the previous decade. Following this trend line, 2020 may prove to be one of the greatest years on record and will lead to fantastic gains in almost every category. A quick survey of successes includes working remotely, distance learning and online collaboration. These concepts are gaining exponential support for continued use in our professional and personal lives. Other benefits include reductions in traffic and pollution. A renewed interest in biochemical research will advance treatments in a host of diseases, conditions and ailments. Excess labor (aka skilled employees laid off during quarantine), low interest rates and new technology will spur new start-ups and perhaps even new industries that will drive the economy for years to come.

Within our own great hobby, we have a renewed passion and interest for learning, testing and upgrading. The shutdowns of the past few months have successfully proven that they are an obstacle to our cultural genome. As we are social animals, the need to communicate, share information, and demonstrate improvements to our technology and environment dominates our nature. As with the argument outlined above, an opportunity has been laid before us that we must capitalize on. Your time and talent are required to make this opportunity a reality. In the days ahead, I encourage each of you to apply yourselves by volunteering to host a VE examination at a local park, host a ZOOM call with a high school physics class or have that introductory conversation with the interested party in the Kroger parking lot. The message here is simple – waste no opportunity to help a peer, a child, or your neighbor.

I am also using this forum to make a special plea for your treasure. The end of the year is approaching, and **now is the time to make the first large scale reminder for renewal of club dues.** (Student is \$5. Individual is \$30. Family is \$40). Dues help pay monthly bills, fund capital projects already approved by the membership and hold funds in reserve for future needs. Normally, most of you would pay these dues at the Annual Christmas Party. At the PARK September Board Meeting, it was decided that there would not be a Christmas Party. However, the Board has decided we will still have a raffle. The raffle will be limited to three prizes from Ham Radio Outlet in the amounts of \$150, \$100, and \$50. Renewal of dues can be made by either Paypal through the K5PRK [web site](#) or mailing your check to the PARK Post Office. Dues must be paid Friday 4 December 2020. The drawing will be held on Monday 21 December 2020. Winners will be selected by a computer aided lottery. So as you can see, tradition and fellowship remain.

In conclusion, 2020 has been a year of tremendous loss and hardship, but the ashes of this year will become the soil that fertilizes the next decade. That is not forgetting the pain of this year, that is honoring it, and ensuring it is not wasted. One final thought regarding the use of one’s time, talent, and treasure and our great hobby

– “The mission of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” ~ Pablo Picasso.

I wish you well in the faithful execution of that exercise.

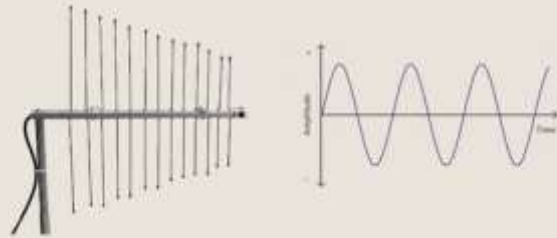
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Thanks to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Amateur.Radio.Funnies>



A benefit of Zoom meetings

## AMATEUR RADIO:



## THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING WAVES.

### A selection of Sods laws relating to Ham Radio

The amount of space required is proportional to the amount available squared  
Radios are always 1/2" wider than the space you measured for them in the shack

When cutting a piece of wire for use in a project it will always  
be 5mm shorter than needed

Antennas are always too short once they are installed.

If you knock your soldering iron off the bench you will always catch it  
at the hot end

All work tools will be well ordered and sorted into a tool box  
except the one required that will be hiding in plain sight  
on the workbench

A transistor protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.

Components will be damaged in direct proportion to their value

A necessary item goes on sale only after you have  
purchased it at the regular price

When tidying up the shack put all parts you want to throw out  
into a box ... it will make them easier to find when needed  
a week later (Do not throw out)

You will always find that misplaced component 30s after you order a replacement

Dropped components always land far under the desk

Wife helps by hoovering the shack for you, removing your stock of dropped SMD's



The Postman will always give your wife parcels you  
wanted to smuggle into your shack

Any circuit design must contain at least one part which is obsolete,  
two parts which are unobtainable and three parts which are still  
under development.

In cold weather do not pour hot water on frozen windows  
to open it your computer won't like it

It is impossible to make radios foolproof because fools are so ingenious

When all else fails, read the instructions



Who would do this? ;)

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## ***Fox Hunting results from Plano***

Wheatley had a lot of fun on his field trip to Plano! The successful hunters were:

Paul Vizard K5PAV  
 Mark Hammons N5MSH  
 Ian Stubbs KC5DFC (welcome back to the hunt!)  
 Bob and Gayle Hill KG5WRY  
 Jason Shipley KF5LJC  
 Buddy Shipley KF5LJD  
 Don Griffin WS5L  
 Richard and Patti Jennings N5PMU  
 Bob Romans KI5GRN  
 Tony and Mary Campbell W5ADC (first time hunter!)  
 Delynda Johnson-Moravec KE5VTI (first time hunter!)  
 Kipton Moravec AE5IB (first time hunter!)  
 Danny Siminiuk K5CG  
 Mimi Siminiuk K5MMI

Congratulations to everyone who found Wheatley! He was hidden on the north side of Christie Elementary School at Rainier Rd and Cross Bend Rd (which is where my mom works!). The hint this time was "Grace Kelly and Prince \_\_\_\_\_".

73  
 Katherine  
 KT5KMF



**The winner of the \$25 HRO gift certificate will be randomly selected from the list of successful hunters during the Oct 19 meeting. Winner need not be present to win.**



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## 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

### IMPROMPTU FRIDAY FOX HUNT - INSULIN PUMP EDITION

POSTED ON THE K5RWK NEWSGROUP, THANKS TO KATIE

My son is on an Omnipod insulin pump that uses an RF (433 mhz) device to communicate.

Last night, it got lost. I turned the house upside down looking for it. (No worries, we have alternatives to giving him insulin)

This morning, I realized it might act like one of the foxes and occasionally transmit something. After a quick dig on Google, I found the frequency and tuned in with my handy talkie. Sure enough, something was transmitting in only 1 room. I closed in on the source and there it was, hidden pretty good. Here it is trying to get a status from the active pod on my request.

That's \$200-\$500 I just saved with a cheap radio!

73

**Katie Gibson**

[2020-10-16-12-14-05.mp4](#)

### VE Testing

Daryl, AF5QJ, held a couple of test sessions and will continue as needed.

### [Analysis determines we are in Solar Cycle 25](#)

<https://www.spaceweatherwoman.com/> has weekly space weather [YouTube](#) updates that are very interesting.



### [This Week in Amateur Radio](#)

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## ARRL News

### ARRL magazines

QST - ARRL's Monthly Membership Journal - [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst)

On the Air - NEW! Beginner to intermediate level help and advice - [www.arrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine](http://www.arrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine)

QEX - The Forum for Communications Experimenters - [www.arrl.org/QEX](http://www.arrl.org/QEX)

NCJ - National Contest Journal - [www.arrl.org/NCJ](http://www.arrl.org/NCJ)

## ARRL Podcasts Schedule



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 *On the Air* podcast (Episode 9) features a An interview with ARRL Lifelong Learning Manager Kris Bickell, K1BIC, about ARRL's new "Learning Network" webinars.

The latest episode of the *Eclectic Tech* podcast (Episode 17)

features a discussion of how RSID is used to identify HF digital

modes, and a chat with Bob Allison, WB1GCM, about mysterious long-delayed echoes (LDEs).

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](#).



[Comments are being accepted](#) on the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in MD Docket 20-270, which proposes application fees for radio amateurs. Formal deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. Comments may be filed now, however, by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270.

The new ARRL North Texas Website is now Live <https://arrlntx.org>

Get the latest Section News.



## ARRL 2020 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) - November 14

The 2020 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will take place November 14. The annual, nationwide exercise provides Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers the chance to test personal emergency-operating skills and communication readiness in a simulated emergency deployment. ARRL is asking participants to adhere to Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local health department COVID-19 [guidelines](#) by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following recommended cleaning and disinfecting practices.

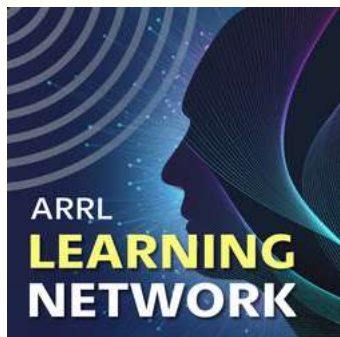
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### **ARRL Learning Network's new speaker forum/seminars**

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>

These are 30 minutes presentation with 15 minutes allotted for Question and Answer session following the presentation These presentations are online using GoToWebinar which is safe Industry standard software.

Check out the ever growing [list of presentations](#).



[2020-2021 ARRL Contest Dates PDF](#)

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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.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 9:00 PM - Collin County ARES -**

K5PRK repeater, 1(47.180 MHz, offset +0.600 MHz, tone 107.2 Hz)

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 as you can to [newsletter@k5prk.net](mailto:newsletter@k5prk.net)

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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>

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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
  - 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](#).