

# K5PRK Newsletter

*The PARKing Ticket*

*Golden Jubilee - our 50th Anniversary*

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



## Officers

President:

*Tim Johnson, K5TCJ*

Vice President:

*Anthony Bourkas –  
KB3DVS*

Secretary:

*Johnnie Young, KG5CQO*

Treasurer:

*Mike Tharp – KG5TJF*

Activities Director:

*Richard Seitz – KG5HCJ*

Communications Director:

*Dick Thiot N5FCB*

Webmaster

*James McCormick  
KG5KBP*

Public Relations:

*Dan Daniels, W5KKO*

Newsletter Editor:

*Neil Gould, NE5IL*

**Monday Dec 18, 2023 – 6:00 pm**

**Annual Christmas Party Rudy's in Allen**

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## Future Club Meeting Programs:

Jan 15, 2024	TBD	
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Due to the interest in DMR at the Nov meeting, Bob, K5MVZ, is offering the following:

1) I will have 2 TYT MD-380 UHF Only Analog FM & DMR talkies at the PARK Christmas party for a ham who wants to try DMR. You will need a VALID DMR id from [www.Radioid.net](http://www.Radioid.net) to access the DMR-MARC & Brandmeister DMR networks. I will have more available IF more interest. E-mail: [k5mvz@verizon.net](mailto:k5mvz@verizon.net).

2) "DroidStar" is an app for Android phones available for FREE at the Google Play Store that turns your cell into a DMR radio & hotspot. You will need a VALID DMR id from [www.Radioid.net](http://www.Radioid.net) & REGISTERED with the Brandmeister network (brandmeister.network) including a Brandmeister HOTSPOT password to make the app work.

## 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](#)**

**Note: If you notice problems with any of the club's repeaters, please contact [communications@k5prk.net](mailto:communications@k5prk.net)**

**via email with a detailed description of what the issue is. If we don't know that a repeater is down, we can't fix it.**

## From the President

### Season's Greetings.

Mark your calendars... Monday December 18th is PARK'S annual [Christmas/Holiday party](#). Good food, good fellowship, and good raffle prizes. Details are in this newsletter.

It's that time of year again when PARK membership renewal comes due. If you haven't already done so, I encourage all members to renew their membership at this month's meeting / Holiday party. Your dues allow the continued operation and upgrades to PARKS repeaters, and other sponsored events, such as the December meeting holiday party. Don't forget, members who renew before or at the party will receive a free raffle ticket.

As we have done in the past, at the end of the night raffle winners are limited to one (1) raffle prize. If after winning a prize, you have another ticket drawn, you must decline one of the prizes. The declined prize then has a new winning ticket drawn. Good Luck.

With the coming of 2024, we have a lot to look forward to. Winter Field Day is just around the corner, our VP Anthony Burokas – KB5DVS has some exciting presentations lined up, camaraderie when attending our monthly meetings, and of course many opportunities to get on the air.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.


73, and see you on the air,

**Tim Johnson K5TCJ  
President PARK**



## Activities Director's Report Upcoming Events

### ➤ **PARK December Meeting and Christmas Party**

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December
  - Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar -B-Q
  - 1790 N. Central Expwy, Allen, Texas 75002
  - Arrive starting at 6:00 PM – Must leave no later than 9:15
- 
- Dinner (on your own)
  - Short business meeting
  - Winners of the K5PRK/50 Member Activation Contest
  - Raffle for Great Prizes
    - Those who pay their 2024 Dues at or before this meeting will receive a complimentary raffle ticket

**Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00.**

### **Partial Raffle Prize List**

- Two - TYT MDUV380 Dual Band + DMR HT's
- One - ICOM IC-720A All-Band AM/SSB/CW/RTTY Transceiver with General Coverage Receive (Donated item in good condition)
- One - HRO Gift Certificate \$50.00
- One - HRO Gift Certificate \$100.00
- One - HRO Gift Certificate \$150.00
- Plano Super Bowl Family Fun Pack Gift Certificate.

## PARK CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

At the last two month's PARK meetings The PARK Board of Directors, in accordance with the PARK Constitution and By-Laws, notified the membership of a proposed PARK Constitution and By-Laws Amendment to offer complementary PARK membership to first-time licensed hams, in addition to our long-time practice of offering complementary membership to those to take and pass a PARK administered test.

In accordance with the PARK Constitution and By-Laws, this proposed Amendment will now be put before a vote of the membership at the December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

Highlighted in **Yellow** below is the existing wording regarding complementary memberships, followed by the proposed change.

**2. MEMBERSHIP** – Applications for membership shall be submitted at a regular meeting in writing or via email to the club secretary. Each applicant must express a willingness to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and other rules promulgated by the club. An applicant's Amateur Radio license status shall be verified by the club Secretary. The applicant shall become a member once their membership dues have been received. **Unlicensed individuals taking and passing a license exam administered by the club, are eligible for a complimentary membership for the remainder of that calendar year.**

### **Suggested By-Laws Section 2. Membership**

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## DO YOU SPOT?

Some of you may ask what is Spotting. Simply put Spotting is the ability to alert interested Hams that a particular Amateur Radio station is on the air. This other station may be a rare DX entity, a highly desired DXpedition, a Special Event Station, or even just another Ham. DX clusters are internet-based databases to which reports (Spots) are sent by Hams, announcing that a certain callsign is active, on a certain frequency, on a certain mode, at the time the report is made. These Spots may also contain notes with additional information. On the other side of the DX Cluster, these Spots can be viewed by other Hams who may find a station, a location, a mode, or other criteria that leads them to attempt to contact that station. There are many logging programs that give you the ability to easily Spot a station, and to see, sort and filter the Spots to meet your needs. Google "DX Spotting" for more information on Spotting.

DX Spotting and DX Clusters are great tools to let you know who is on the air, and where, but the one thing left unknown is ... will I be able to contact that station. To that end, I know of no better way to know that a band is open to somewhere, or that local Hams are working some elusive DXpedition, than for local Hams to simply tell each other. And we have the means of doing that available to us today.

Email Reflectors ...

PARK and other local clubs have Email reflectors (Groups.io, etc.) that enable local chatter, requests for help, and other announcements. In my mind local Spotting is also a proper and encouraged use. Spotting on local reflectors lets you know what DX - **IS** - being worked from your local area.

Another feature of local email reflector Spotting is that you don't need to be in front of your radio or computer to get a timely tip of hot DX. Case in point, a few nights ago I was watching TV when I got an email from a local reflector with a local Ham reporting having just worked H44WA on 10 meters. I went into my shack and worked them on my second call. What could have been a missed opportunity became a new DX entity in my log, thanks to a local Ham spotting H44WA locally via email reflector.

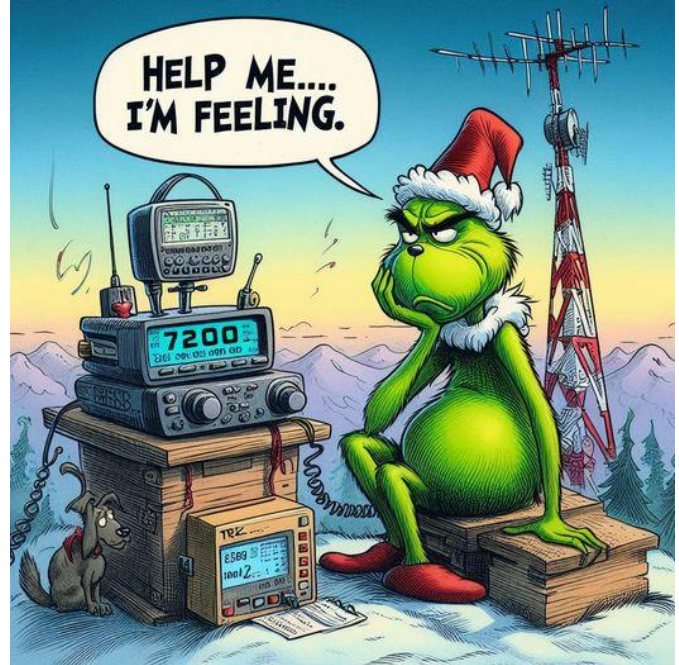
In the spirit of Hams helping Hams, and helping one's friends and neighbors, I encourage and invite spotting on the PARK email reflector, and others you may also be a member of.

That spot you make may help someone else, and someone else's spot may get that ATNO in your log.

73 and Good DX,

Tim  
K5TCJ





**Hop on the radio!  
The bands are buzzing!**



Where is my mouse?

Ready for winter POTA



# 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)

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.

## ARRL Podcasts Schedule

	<p>Visit the <a href="#">ARRL Learning Network</a> (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.</p>
	<p><b>About ARRL Audio News</b></p> <p>ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of Amateur Radio, along with interviews and other features. Enjoy ARRL Audio News anywhere: on your smart phone or tablet, your local repeater, or stream it on the go!</p> <p><b>How to Listen to Audio News</b></p> <p>ARRL Audio News is distributed through the podcast host <a href="#">Blubrry.com</a>. You can subscribe to the podcast via your IOS or Android mobile device using your favorite podcast app, or listen and download episodes direct from the Audio News page at Blubrry.</p>
	<p><b><u><a href="#">The Value of Contest Clubs</a></u></b></p> <p><i>November 09, 2023</i></p> <p><b>As current member and former president of the Society of Midwest Contesters, Craig knows the ins and outs of running a contest club and ensuring that the value proposition makes sense to the average member.</b></p>

### [2022-2023 ARRL Contest Dates PDF](#)

A complete list of special event stations, including Veterans Day stations, is available at [www.arrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations).

### [Amateur radio hobbyists share historic Texas lighthouse restoration story with world"](#)

Beaumont Enterprise (Texas) September 6, 2023 -- Sabine Pass Lighthouse restoration.



## 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. 146.540 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 7:30 PM** – Ham Radio in Sachse – Weekly “On-The-Air” Information Net called “Ham Radio in Sachse”.

**W5SRA Repeater (440.350MHz, PL Tone 110.9, Offset +5MHz)**

You can see more about our club repeater here: <https://www.sachseradio.org/repeater>

**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.

**W5SRA Repeater Repeater (440.350MHz, PL Tone 110.9, Offset +5MHz)**

### LARC Nets

**Tuesday 8:00 PM – Open Net** - The Lucas Amateur Radio Club holds an informal net open to all Amateur Radio operators.

K5LFD Repeater (442.2125 MHz, offset +5.0 MHz, tone 91.5)

**Wednesday 8:00 PM – Simplex Net** – An informal repeaterless net on 146.54 MHz to gauge the effectiveness of our VHF capabilities.

### 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.



## HF Nets

[Search for 100s of nets.](#)

[On-Air Net Scraper](#)

**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>

### Daily 60 Meter Net 12:30 PM –

Test your 60 Meter capability on Channel 1 5332.0 MHz (5330.5 MHz window freq).

If you want to list your favorite net please send as much information as you can to [newsletter@k5prk.net](mailto:newsletter@k5prk.net)

## [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>

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

### **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 a 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.](#)

**PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB  
Application for Membership**

Klub year is from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>

Annual KLUB Membership (Individual) ..... \$30.00/Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Annual KLUB Family Membership ..... \$40.00/Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Membership (18 and Under) ..... \$ 5.00/Year \_\_\_\_\_

Half year is from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>

Klub Membership (Individual)..... \$15.00/half Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Klub Family Membership ..... \$20.00/half Year \_\_\_\_\_

***For The Treasurer Only***

**Total Amount Paid (Circle One: Cash or Check # \_\_\_\_\_ ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

**The PARK Roster is given to KLUB Members Only. Please circle any information that you do not want published.**

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Call(s): \_\_\_\_\_ First Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign(s) of Other Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_ ARES Member? \_\_\_\_\_

Other Hobbies and Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) You wish to join PARK: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) is an organization which thrives on the support and participation of ALL KLUB Members. Volunteers are needed regularly for the support of KLUB activities, manning technical projects, staffing organizational or social committees and providing communications for public service events.**

Are you willing to stand for election to a PARK Office and/or Director Position? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Will you agree to support PARK, to keep it strong and thriving? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PARK Secretary Only:**

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

P.A.R.K.  
P.O. Box 860435  
Plano, TX 75086-0435

or send via email to [secretary@k5prk.net](mailto:secretary@k5prk.net)



# Plano Amateur Radio Klub General Meeting Minutes



## PARK GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2023

Attendance:34

1904 Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Officer Reports

President

Vice – President

Secretary

Treasurer

➤ Bank Account: ~\$10,400

➤ Available Funds: \$1,800 (after all budgeted and committed capital projects)

Communications Director

Activities Director

Public Relations

Newsletter Editor

Webmaster: Not Present

Old Business: No report

New Business:

1. Club Christmas Party is at Rudy's in Allen.

- Motion made and seconded to allocate \$600 for Christmas Party
- Unanimously approved by the membership

2. Anthoy Campbell, W5ADC, arrived late with PILES OF STUFF

- \$5/ea. for a grab bag of miscellaneous electronics and related gear.
- Anything left behind was to be disposed of immediately

Break

Reconvened at ~ 1940

1. John Donovan won the 50/50 and his winnings were donated back to the club.

Presentation

Kevin Grantham, N5KRG

➤ DMR – An introduction to Digital Mobile Radio

2055 Adjourned