

K5PRK Newsletter

The PARKing Ticket

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



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KB3DVS**

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KG5KBP**

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Sam Parson, W9VPU

Newsletter Editor:

Neil Gould, NE5IL

Monday July 15, 2024 – 7:00 pm

It's time to get that unused ham gear out of your attic and garage because the [annual PARK Auction](#) is coming up again and we welcome donations to the club table to be auctioned off to assist with club activities and expenses. It's a great way to clear out old gear you never use, help the club, and have a lot of fun buying some new year you hopefully WILL use! <https://k5prk.net/club-auction/> for details



The **General Klub Meeting** will be at [First United Methodist Church Plano.](#)

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Informal PARK net

Every **Wednesday night at 8:00pm** on the PARK repeater, 147.180 with a PL tone of 107.2 offset. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in the conversation and it's a good place to ask about computer or ham radio subjects, or anything else that's on your mind. We don't think that there are any dumb or stupid questions. We encourage questions and will help you find an answer.

– **Michael K5MFP**

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

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

It's July and that means the [PARK Annual AUCTION!](#) The business portion of this month's meeting will be abbreviated to give us more time for the auction. See more auction information elsewhere in this newsletter.

A quick note on Board of Directors elections. Being an even numbered year, the following Board positions are up for election at our October general meeting: Vice President, Secretary, Web Master, Public Relations, and Communications Director. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please let any Board of Directors member know. More information to follow as we get closer to October.

In case you missed it. Our 50th anniversary celebration was featured in a [two-page write-up](#) in the "Club Station" column in the July issue of QST (page 88). Thank you VP Anthony Burokas KB3DVS for submitting the article to the ARRL.

Lots of opportunities this month to get on the air. QSO parties, Contests, various Special Event stations, POTA park activations, and that New DXpedition you want in your log. Don't miss the many opportunities to get on the air.

73, and see you at our next meeting, and on the air.

**Tim Johnson K5TCJ
President PARK**

ARRL Student Membership

Free Student Membership
(aged 21 years or younger*)
FREE

Join Now



www.arrl.org/join

*Additional restrictions apply.



ARRL
The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

Auction Items and the process

Club member and active ham Larry Moyer, K5IMO
Has donated two amazing radios for the July auction.

Yaesu FT-450D All Mode HF+50 100w with internal antenna tuner.
This is a recently discontinued model from Yaesu & was \$720 from DX Engineering.
Starting price will be \$400, which is the bottom end of e-bay, but no cost for shipping,
and no sales tax (both of which Ebay charges you) and you can walk away with it.

Xeigu G90 20w HF 20w with internal antenna tuner
This is a current model for \$450 from RadioOddity.
Starting price will be \$250 and it includes the brackets.

Either of these two great radios would make a great first HF radio for a new ham.

==== MORE:

Icom IC-2730A 144/440 FM Transceiver w/ microphone, power cord, programming cable and detachable control-head extension cord. Very good condition in original box.

MFJ-434B Voice Keyer. w/power cord. Excellent Condition Seldom taken out of the box and used, in original box

Clegg FM-76 220 MHz transceiver. Used
ICOM IC-22A 144 MHz transceiver. Used
ICOM IC-25H 144 MHz transceiver. Used
ICOM IC-2AT 144 MHz HT. Used
Yaesu FT-26 144 MHz HT. Used

D-Link DI-624 Wi-Fi router. New in unopened box.

Dell Power Edge R320 Rack-Mounted Server. Used.

Heath Antenna 50 Ohm Dummy Load in a 1-gallon "paint" can. Used.

Elecraft KAT500 Automatic Antenna Tuner. Looks wise in excellent condition, but Inop due to nearby lightning strike. Good to play around with, or for parts.

Motorola XPR-8400 Repeater, and 2 Motorola XPR-5500 transceivers. Looks clean but condition unknown.

Hy-Gain Trap Dipole (maybe 80/40) Used.
1 empty Pelican "Suitcase" style sealed case.
1 empty Plastic Drybox for ham gear
2 plastic Dryboxes that have been converted to battery boxes complete with Batteries.

Multiple laptops previously used by the club for Field Day Logging. Starting bid is \$25 per laptop.

FD Log 1 = HP Pavilion dv6000 WinXP, 2 / 120 GB, 1280x800-15"
The Most usable of the laptops, but it's on Windows XP, which will not load the current version of Field Day logging software from N3FJP.

FD Log 2 = Compaq Presario M2000, ??? 15"
Has no power and the power adapter with it doesn't fit. It's a Targus 3rd party adapter with the wrong tip for this laptop. Cannot charge.

FD Log 5, HP Pavilion zd7000 WinXP, 1 / 20 GB, 37 GB, 36 GB, 1440x900-17"

Hefty 17" laptop with several partitions and software going on- and only 1 GB of RAM. it's on Windows XP, which will not load the current version of Field Day logging software from N3FJP.

Toshiba NB200 - Windows XP - Atom N280 - 1GB/140GB - 10" screen

While small and light, the old OS prevents it from using the current logging software.

11-element 2.4 GHz yagi for WiFi. NEW in box.

LowePro Fanny/Pack Camera bag

50 ohm to 12.5 ohm balun

Omron Blood Pressure Cuff (like new)

Yeasu FT-208R 2m HT with desk charger / base.

> Antenna, 2 Hamstick type 75-meter mobile whips (along with your mount makes a portable 75-meter dipole) Used

> Antenna, 70 cm 11 Element Yagi. Used

> Antenna, 70 cm 7 Element Log Periodic. Used

> Antenna, Archer Maximo CB Vertical Ground-Plane Antenna (easily converted to 10 meters) Used

> Antenna, Dual Tape-Measure Portable Dipole

> Antenna, Home-Made G5RV Antenna

> Antenna, Hy-Gain Trap Dipole (maybe 80/40) Used.

> Beckman AC Current Clamp Model CT-231

> Clegg FM-76 220 MHz transceiver. Used

> D-Link DI-624 Wi-Fi router. New in unopened box.

> Elecraft KAT500 Automatic Antenna Tuner. Looks wise in excellent condition, but Inop due to nearby lighting strike. Good to play around with, or for parts.

> Fluke 884A multimeter. Used

> Heath Cantenna 50 Ohm Dummy Load in a 1-gallon "paint" can. Used.

> ICOM IC-22A 144 MHz transceiver. Used

> ICOM IC-25H 144 MHz transceiver. Used

> Icom IC-2730A 144/440 FM Transceiver w/ microphone, power cord, programming cable and detachable control-head extension cord. Very good condition in original box.

> ICOM IC-2AT 144 MHz HT. Used

> Keithley Instruments Model 1685 Clamp-on AC Current Probe

> KEPCO ATE 55-1M Power Supply 0-55Volt 0-1 Amp

> Magellan GPS NAV 1000 Pro "vintage" GPS Navigation set w/ Model 39009 external antenna and mount & complete documentation

> MFJ-434B Voice Keyer. w/ power cord. Excellent Condition Seldom taken out of the box and used, in original box.

> Triplet Model 630-NA Multimeter Used "Vintage"

> Yaesu FT-26 144 MHz HT. Used

Check your garage, closet, ham radio shelves, wherever you keep gear you haven't used in a long while.

There will be three sets of tables where you can:

A – DONATE it to the club.

The club auctions it. The proceeds benefit the club. Everything needs your call sign on it, because of no one bids, you still take it home.

B – KEEP ownership. Put a starting price on the item. Let the club try to auction it. If it sells, 10% of the sale price goes to the club. If it does not sell, you take it home.

C- GIVE it away free to any interested ham to take put it back into use. A box of tubes, spool of wire, antenna pieces, radio interfaces, etc. This can be snapped up at any time so come early to get a shot at all the freebees. Everything needs your call sign on it, because of no one bids, you still take it home.

Because we had SO much gear come in last year,

1 — We will be prioritizing what we auction – which means picking and choosing, not everything may be called for auction.

2 — YOU Label ALL ITEMS with your call sign. If it doesn't sell, you take it back home with you.

3 — Ham-related gear please.

4 — Let our VP know if you have a noteworthy item you will bring to the auction so we can publicize it. That helps draw bidders. (VP@K5PRK.net)

5 — Anything not auctioned or given away at the end of the night, is open to a person-to-person sale.

Remember — ANY item you bring that does not sell, or freebee not taken, you must take it home.

Write out an index card for each of your items, with some information about them, like what it does, operational condition, how it's used, or if the transceiver has additional filters installed, etc. This saves us time, provides more information to the bidder, and can increase the winning price.

===== THE PROCESS:

Every bidder comes in and signs a log to be assigned a bidder number / Index Card.
So we can call out the winning bidder number, and keep track of won items.

Every item is given or has an Item Card with the item's model number / description.
The Auctioneer will use these Item Cards for any description or specifics about the item being auctioned.
When won, the Auctioneer's Assistant writes the winning bidder's number and price on the Item Card.

When an item is bid on and won, it is moved to a "Completed" table.
Our "Runner" takes the Item Card to the club Treasurer for payment.

Bidders can keep bidding on various items, and make a single payment at the end.
Payments can be made with cash or PayPal.

When paid for, the Treasurer stamps Item Card(s) as sold.
The stamped Item Cards must be presented to the Runner or Runner's Assistant to pick up the item from the Completed table.

In order to get the deals, you need to be here in person.--

Anthony Burokas
General Class Ham (KB3DVS)
VP: Plano Amateur Radio Klub – <http://k5prk.net>
25-year video producer — IEBA.com

Future Club Meeting Programs

AUGUST

Will continue the great series of programs with something I haven't figured out yet, but I'm I have a few feelers out and I welcome your suggestions to VP@K5PRK.net

Anthony Burokas

General Class Ham (KB3DVS)

VP: Plano Amateur Radio Klub – <http://k5prk.net>



ARRL LEARNING CENTER FEATURES TWO NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TRAINING COURSES

ARRL HAS RELEASED [TWO NEW COURSES](#) TO TRAIN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (EMCOMM) OPERATORS FOR VOLUNTEERING WITHIN THE [AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE® \(ARES®\)](#). BOTH COURSES ARE WITHIN THE ARRL LEARNING CENTER.



Field Day prep. My Honda generator has bad gas.

**MOST OF US JUST
BLAME THE DOG.**

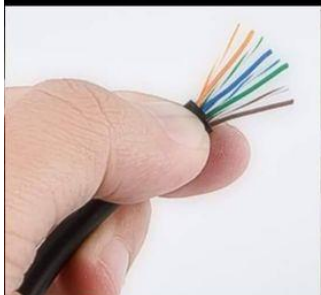
No gas needed with our solar panels!

Media: The average adult spends \$255 per year on their hobbies



Yeah sure. Keep telling your partner that!

**THE MOST REAL 10-YEAR
CHALLENGE I'VE SEEN**



2011



2021

Who can relate? Anyone over 40!



Typhoon



**Earth
Quake**



Ham Static



Created with ChatGPT and Copilot image creator

****The Whiz-Bang World of Ham Sam the Ham Radio Man 📻🌟****

In a nook by the brook with an antenna on high 🌲📶, Sat Ham Sam, the radio man, reaching the sky 🌐.

He'd CQ and QSL with a gleam in his eye 👁️, Sending Morse code, his signal would fly 📶.

With his trusty transceiver, his frequencies he'd comb 📻, From UHF to VHF, he'd always find home 🏠.

"CQ, CQ" he'd say with a tap of his key 📻, His QRP rig made him happy as could be 😊.

He'd work DX from dusk till dawn 🌅👤, His ham shack alive, the airwaves his lawn 📶🌿.

Through ragchews and pile-ups, with static he'd spar ⚡📶, From his dipole to yagi, he'd QSO near and far 🌐.

In the world of Ham Sam, the ham radio man 📻👤, Every QTH was a new friend, a new land 📖.

So if you hear him call with a beep or a hum 📻, You'll know it's Ham Sam, making the airwaves hum 🎵!



Thanks to [Micah KN6VUT](#), the Public Information Officer for the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association.

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

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

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

	<p>Visit the ARRL Learning Network (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.</p>
	<p>About ARRL Audio News</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>How to Listen to Audio News</p> <p>ARRL Audio News is distributed through the podcast host Blubrry.com.</p>
	<p><u>ARRL FORUMS AT DAYTON HAMVENTION 2024</u></p> <p>May 08, 2024</p> <p>ARRL Director of Marketing & Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, joins this month's podcast to share details about ARRL-sponsored activities at Dayton Hamvention 2024</p>
	<p>ARRL LEARNING CENTER FEATURES TWO NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TRAINING COURSES</p> <p>ARRL HAS RELEASED <u>TWO NEW COURSES</u> TO TRAIN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (EMCOMM) OPERATORS FOR VOLUNTEERING WITHIN THE <u>AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE® (ARES®)</u>. BOTH COURSES ARE WITHIN THE ARRL LEARNING CENTER.</p>

[2023-2024 ARRL Contest Dates PDF](#)

A complete list of special event stations, including Veterans Day stations, is available at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations.

Texas QSO Party – Who Wants to Party?

2024 CONTEST DATES

Saturday September 21: 9AM to 9PM CDT / 1400 UTC TO SEP 22 0200 UTC AND
Sunday September 22: 9AM to 3PM CDT / 1400 UTC TO 2000 UTC

RULES / SCORING

See <https://www.txqp.net/index.php/rules/operating-rules>

CATEGORY (NEEDED FOR EXCHANGE):

STATION CALL / SIGNAL REPORT / COUNTY ABBREVIATION / TXM – SO

SEAN – W5SPK WANTS TO LEAD A TEAM OF OPERATORS IN HIS POV

2017 CHEVY TAHOE WITH ICOM 7000 WITH A TARHEEL 200A ANTENNA.

COOLER AND FIRST RESPONDER KIT AND TOOLS ON BOARD

TEAM: ONE DRIVER AND THREE QUALIFIED HF OPERATORS.

ROTATING DRIVER, NAVIGATOR, OPERATOR AND LOGGER.

NEED TO START PLANNING ROUTES AND SPOTTING SAFE / CLEAR OPS

GAS AND FOOD ONLY / NO LODGING – WE WILL SLEEP IN OUR OWN BEDS.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING AND BRING SOME RECOGNITION TO THE CLUB...

EMAIL ME - EXTRAW5SPK@GMAIL.COM

TARGET AREAS OF OPERATION AND TRAVEL



Short Takes



The primary mission of the [Hurricane Watch Net](#) is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas. We also collect observed or measured weather data from amateur radio operators in the storm-affected area as well as any post-storm damage and convey that information to the Hurricane Forecasters in the National Hurricane Center via the amateur radio station in the center (**WX4NHC**). In addition, we provide the same service for the Canadian Hurricane Centre whenever a hurricane threatens their country.

=====

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) HF World Championship occurs next weekend, beginning at 1200 UTC on Saturday, July 13 and concluding at 1159 UTC on Sunday, July 14. ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, reminds participants they can enter in CW, SSB, or mixed mode categories. The exchange is a signal report and your ITU zone. ITU zones for stations in the Lower 48 are 6, 7, or 8. ITU zones for Canadian stations are 2, 3, 4, or 9. US and Canadian participants should visit the rules page (see link below) for more information on how to determine their ITU zone. In addition, stations operated by members of the IARU Administrative Council; the three IARU Regional Executive committees, and IARU member-society HQ stations from around the globe will be on the air. HQ stations will send their member-society abbreviations.

See www.iaru.org/reference/member-societies for a list of IARU member-societies.

ARRL HQ station W1AW/4 will be on the air from Tennessee, operated by members of the Tennessee Contest Group, and IARU HQ station NU1AW will be on the air from Missouri. Participants are reminded that self-spotting is strictly prohibited in all categories.

For full rules and more information, visit www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship.

=====

Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) returned to service effective July 1, 2024. It had been offline as part of a [systems service disruption](#). ARRL is taking steps to help manage what will likely be a huge influx of logs. We are requesting that if you have large uploads, perhaps from contests or from a DXpedition, please wait a week or two before uploading to give LoTW® a chance to catch up. A process was implemented to reject logs with excessive duplicates. Please do not upload your entire log to “ensure” your contacts are in LoTW® as they will be rejected. Despite this request, we have seen several recent DXpeditions upload large log files and many amateurs have uploaded logs with excessive duplicates. This negatively impacts the backlog time. Lastly, please do not call ARRL Headquarters to report issues you are having with LoTW®. You can contact support at LoTW-help@arrl.org. For more information [click here to read our ARRL Member Bulletin about LoTW](#).

=====

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.

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)

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.](#)

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](#)
 - [ARRL General License](#)
- View video classes
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG2S_xV3zJE&t=0s
- Take practice Exams
 - <https://www.eham.net/exams>

Taking the Exam:

Exams are offered by many clubs [around the metroplex](#).

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/>

**PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB
Application for Membership**

Klub year is from January 1st to December 31st

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 1st to December 31st

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

Club Station

Planning a Memorable Club Anniversary Celebration

Many clubs take pride in reaching milestone anniversaries and often choose to spend the entire year celebrating. In this month's column, Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK), K5PRK, Vice President Anthony Burokas, KB3DVS, shares how the Plano, Texas, club successfully planned its year-long 50th anniversary celebration in 2023.

Despite being a small club, PARK was proud to honor 50 years of amateur radio and wanted to celebrate in a big way. But putting on a year-long celebration takes a lot of planning. Using Google Docs, I created one main document that was updated on a weekly basis throughout the year. It was also shared with Board members, so they could review it at any time. We honored our 50th year with a contest, a formal Golden Jubilee Dinner, and a special QSL card, and by selling memorabilia with an anniversary logo.

Gathering Anniversary Swag

At the beginning of the year, Dick Thiot, N5FCB, and his son Skyler volunteered to modify the club's logo to commemorate 50 years. We put the logo on our website (<https://k5prk.net>), on a special anniversary QSL card, in email signatures, and on various pieces of memorabilia.

I commissioned a company to make gold lapel pins with the anniversary logo to be used as giveaways at the Golden Jubilee Dinner. There are dozens of companies available to do this.

PARK President Tim Johnson, K5TCJ, created badges with the 50th anniversary logo, and I used CafePress, an online retailer of customized items, to order shirts, mouse pads, mugs, and other items for members to purchase. The nice thing about an online retailer is that everything is printed and shipped on demand.

Planning Celebratory Events

Our formal dinner and anniversary contest took a bit of planning. I worked with Dave Koch, W8OV, a club member who's well-versed in logging solutions, to help figure out how to set up a contest that allowed members to activate PARK's call sign "750" and log contacts in a central database that was accessible throughout the year. HamAward (<https://hamaward.cloud>) allowed us to create a special contest that each participant could log into

PARK President Tim Johnson, K5TCJ (right), presented PARK Founder Dick Sander, K5QY (left), with a Certificate of Appreciation at the club's 50th anniversary Golden Jubilee Dinner. Dick has since become a Silent Key. The club is grateful to have had the chance to honor him during their semicentennial celebration.



and record their contacts. Even though every participant was remote, they each could see the current tally and the logbook, along with who else was on the air at the same time. PARK PR Chair Francis "Dan" Daniels, W5KKQ, helped a local print shop design a return QSL card.

Whoever had the highest number of total contacts as K5PRK/50 at the end of the year won the top prize, but we also had awards for the most contacts made on a particular mode and the most VHF contacts made, among others. I solicited various companies and organizations for prizes, which were awarded at the club's year-end holiday party.

Hosting the Golden Jubilee Dinner was also an important part of the celebration. We began looking for the reception hall more than 6 months in advance. Johnnie Young, KG5CQO, did an amazing amount of research in regard to contacting each of our past presidents, founders, and charter members. Because each past president was invited to bring a guest, this number was critical in determining the size of the facility we needed.

We anticipated at least 100 people would attend, so we decided on a city-owned facility with a minimal reservation fee that included AV, chairs, and tables. We had to cater the food, but we could use the facility's kitchen to keep items warm or cold as needed. Mike Tharp, KG5TJF, oversaw the food, including ordering, serving, and cleaning up. During the dinner, Mike and Sam Parson, W9VPU, made sure that no one went home hungry.

Each past president received a certificate (created by Johnnie and Tim), along with an anniversary pin. Additionally, the club lacked portraits of past presidents and founders, so I set up my camera and lights in the lobby to take their portraits as they arrived (with assistance from Johnnie and Larry Randall, WA5BEN).

I also set up video cameras around the room to record the event. Afterward, I edited the content into a single presentation that's available for members to view on PARK's website. I was also able to stream the dinner on our Facebook page for members who couldn't attend. Bob Nine, KD5QDQ, volunteered his services and his gear to mix audio for the night. He also ran the slide presentations.

Getting the Public Involved

Tim and Johnnie put together a press release and sent it to local newspapers, websites, and TV stations. I also reached out to the City of Plano to see about getting a proclamation for the club, and the process was fairly easy.

Johnnie used the club's Groups.io email list and HamClubOnline (www.hamclubonline.com), a radio club member management system, to notify club members of the celebratory activities and to direct them to the regularly updated 50th anniversary section of the club website, which included links for purchasing memorabilia, contest rules, and historical information on the club's founding, as well as several polls and the ability to purchase tickets for the Golden Jubilee Dinner.

City of Plano Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Maria Tu presented the PARK declaration at the dinner. Section Manager of the ARRL North Texas Section Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK, delivered presentations and prize giveaways at the Golden Jubilee Dinner. We also thanked Icom America, Yaesu, Kenwood, MFJ Enterprises, DX Engineering, the Plano Balloon Festival, Homebrew Coffee Shop & Eatery, Scott Boutwell of HamStop (a local maker who donated some military sectional push-up poles to give away at the dinner; www.etsy.com/shop/HamStop), Bioenno Power, and Dakota Lithium for their sponsorships and donations.

Financial Commitment

Out of everything we did to celebrate our 50th anniversary, the Golden Jubilee Dinner was by far the most

Pieces of memorabilia, like this commemorative pin, were created with PARK's 50th anniversary logo.



PARK's special 50th anniversary QSL card.

expensive — this type of event can cost thousands of dollars. Our treasurer presented a budget to the general membership that was approved to pay for the dinner and all related expenses. Thankfully, PARK members donated their time, services, use of equipment, and more, dramatically cutting the total cost. We received some monetary donations, and ticket sales offset the cost as well. We only charged an additional \$5 per person to help defray costs, as we wanted to consider our older, fixed-income members. PARK held its annual auction prior to the dinner, which also helped with the cost.

Each aspect of our 50th anniversary was planned to give back to our club members so they were celebrated as well — a club can't exist without members.

All photos by K5PRK.

Write for "Club Station"

QST's "Club Station" column is a designated space for clubs to share specific and practical ideas about what has contributed to their success, in the hope that the information will help other clubs grow and thrive. Visit www.arrl.org/qst-club-station-guidelines-and-profile-form for more information, including author guidelines and a Club Profile Form (this form is required in order for "Club Station" submissions to be considered complete).

ARRL Special Service Clubs

ARRL offers the Special Service Club (SSC) program for clubs that demonstrate that they're working to improve the amateur radio community by completing special projects, holding license classes, and working with local groups on events, among other activities. Visit www.arrl.org/ssc-application for more information about this program. Below is a list of new and renewing SSCs as of April 16, 2024.

Renewing SSCs
 Hampden County Radio Association, W1NY
 Barnstable ARC, W1MA
 Sun City ARC, K5WPH

Agawam, MA
 South Dennis, MA
 El Paso, TX

