

K5PRK Newsletter

The PARKing Ticket

K5PRK.Net Facebook IO Group



Officers

President:

Tim Johnson, K5TCJ

Vice President:

Anthony Bourkas – KB3DVS

Secretary:

Sean Kelly, W5SPK

Treasurer:

Mike Tharp – KG5TJF

Activities Director:

Richard Seitz – KG5HCJ

Communications Director:

Dick Thiot N5FCB

Webmaster

James McCormick KG5KBP

Public Relations:

Sam Parson, W9VPU

Newsletter Editor:
Neil Gould, NE5IL

Monday Aug 19, 2024 – 7:00 pm

PARK will recap the club's successful Field Day activities, recap July's very successful club auction, as well as Robert Davis telling us all about the September Plano Balloon Festival.

The General Klub Meeting will be at First United Methodist Church Plano.

In this Issue

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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 MHzDStar 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

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.

In addition to these positions, each Board member is authorized to form committees to help them perform their duties.

Here's an excellent opportunity to use your talents and get more active in the club.

You don't need to be able to climb towers, scamper across roofs, or exert a lot of energy to get involved.

There are plenty of "No Impact" activities for all of us to participate in. Participate in the weekly net, write articles for the newsletter, help with the repeater operations, the opportunities are endless.

Probably the easiest contribution we all can make is Public Relations. Talk to your friends and acquaintances and recruit new members and encourage past members to come back. Most all of us are on various social media outlets. Use them. Post about Ham related events around the area, post about our club, and invite people to learn about Ham Radio.

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

Communications / Repeater Update

At the board meeting on August 3rd, the board approved the purchase of an APC brand battery cartridge for the APC UPS for the repeater cabinet at the primary repeater site, Prestige Water Tower in Allen, TX. On Saturday, August 10th, the UPS was restored to operation and all devices for our main repeaters including the network equipment and Raspberry Pi devices are now connected. Hopefully, this will alleviate a problem that we are experiencing with the Ubiquiti router when it powers up. On a regular basis, the connections to Broadcastify.com are not enabled and it requires a second power cycle. We are working to add remote management of the APC UPS and APC PDU to remotely power cycle some of the devices.

We have placed a cabinet in our closed-in space on the roof of Plano Medical Center. In the fall, we will work on installing that repeater and getting it on the air. We are also looking for a location to place another repeater in the northwest part of Collin County. If anyone has any connections or insights please let a member of the board know.

We also continue to look for better internet connectivity at the water tower but we are still limited to the AT&T DSL that has very limited bandwidth.

Your Communications Team

Thanks,

Dick N5FCB

Beginning Balance - 8/1/24		
Prosperity	\$	11,810.22
PayPal	\$	836.66
Petty Cash &Checks	\$	1,644.00
Beginning Balance Subtotal	\$	14,290.88
Planned Debits		
AT&T	\$	(53.76)
Digital Ocean	\$	(7.60)
FUMC	\$	(75.00)
Debits Subtotal	\$	(136.36)
Debits	\$	(136.36)
Ending Balance	\$	14,154.52
Pre-approved Expenses		
Funded Projects	\$	1,729.51
Annual Recurring Costs	\$	2,707.40
Pre-approved Expenses Subtota	1\$	4,436.91
Available Funds	\$	9,717.61
Minimum Reserves	\$	4,000.00
Remaining funds	\$	5,717.61

Future Club Meeting Programs

September

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 <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.

St. Jude Carnival Opportunity

PARK has been granted free booth space to showcase our expertise and talents at the St. Jude Carnival at St. Jude Catholic Church in Allen, Texas. The church is located at 1515 N. Greenville Avenue, Allen, TX. 75002.

The Carnival is operating from Friday, September 6, 2024 thru Sunday, September 8, 2024. Our primary mission at this event is to provide weather awareness /command. We report directly to the Carnival Event Leaders. For the record, every couple of years, we have been subjected to some sort of severe weather. So, the need for this role and function is real.

I, and at least one another parishioner, will man the booth. We will display the PARK tri-fold and distribute cards and flyers. I will have several HTs, my portable station and my PreppCom 80/40/20 tribander for show and tell. Please feel free to come and stop by and help us promote our wonderful hobby.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Sean Kelly, W5SPK at extraw5spk@gmail.com.

Sean P. Kelly, B.A., B.A., M.B.A. Amateur Extra Class Radio Operator-W5SPK Member, Collin County ARES ARRL Life Member Cell: (214) 869-6043



The **Balloon Festival** needs Coms support from the local Ham Radio Community. It's not hard. A handheld HT with a second battery is all that's needed. Yes, even Technician with a Baofeng will work. A fanny pack for water, sunscreen, snack bars, as well as a good wide brimmed hat will also do you good. Operators are required in two general categories, Field Operations and Recovery. Coms can also liaison to many of the Public Safety agencies supporting the event. None of the positions that in the support of this event are conducive to a non-licensed individual.

General info. https://sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/home

The two categories of operators are:

Field Operations (Primary) - Including pre-briefing and post-launch activity, you can assume you will be needed for 4-5 hours per shift. Morning Start: 0600 hours Evening Start: 1700 hours. Some work around the balloonists. A second group does crowd control / rover. About 12 people (6 and 6) per shift. You get breaks and get a lanyard with your credentials.

Recovery Operations - Including the 1-hour readiness prior to the launch, you should expect to be operational for 2.5-3 hours. This may go over 3 hours if there are issues, such as locating "lost" balloons. Morning Start: 0600 hours Evening Start: 1700 hours. Recovery Staging is dependent upon wind direction, it is not at the balloon launch site. Please review the ICS documentation.

Please review the Need to Know page here:

https://sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/resources?authuser=0

and the Training information page here:

https://sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/resources/training-and-operations?authuser=0

If you have additional questions, you can contact Robert - AD5NR.ROBERT@GMAIL.COM

2024 marks **45 years of Ballooning in Plano!** Join this spectacular four-day event beginning Thursday, September 19th at Oak Point Park. This weekend event offers entertainment on the Main Stage, special kids activities, sky divers, an enormous variety of food, various merchandise including handmade goods, and of course the incredible hot air balloons.

Weather permitting, the balloons will be launching:

Thursday at 7:00pm, Friday at 7:00pm,

Saturday at 7:00am and 7:00pm, and Sunday at 7:00am.

Please get involved, Give 4 hours of your time.

Learn some new skills, or exercise the skills you already have.

It's spread across 4 days, with 5 slots, morning and evening.

This is where you can demonstrate the value of your communication skills in helping the community.

Ops can work multiple days. Can work morning and then evening.

You just need to read up, and then sign up. Super easy.

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

Plano Stake Emergency Preparedness Fair

The Preparedness Fair will be on Saturday Sept 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This is a great event to see demonstrations on how to prepare you and your family for when a disaster strikes. In the past I have helped at the event with an amateur radio demonstration.

They also have several classes that might be of interest.

Time	Class Title
10:10 - 10:50 AM	Medicinal Herbs and Metabolic Health
11:00 - 11:40 AM	Backyard Hydroponic Gardening
11:50 AM - 12:30 PM	Family Home Storage (It's More than Just Food)
12:40 - 1:20 PM	Dollars and Sense (Financial Preparedness)
1:30 - 2:10 PM	Bug In, Bug Out, Bug Home (How to Handle Bad Situations)

It is amazing to learn some of the simple ways to do things to increase your family's preparedness.

This is a fun event. Hopefully there's some munchies again to sample this year.

Plano's Emergency Management normally has a setup at the event.

The website shown below and on the attached 2024 Preparedness Fair Flyer also has preparedness information that is well thought out.

www.preparednessplano.org

Fred Varian - WD5ERD EC Collin County ARES 972-333-6156





Come to the Plano Stake Emergency Preparedness Fair and find out what to do in case of an emergency

Saturday, September 21, 2024 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. 2700 Roundrock Trail Plano, Texas

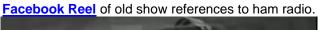
For more information use QR code or visit www.preparednessplano.org

"If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear." (D&C 38:30)

There is lots of good information at this event. Please stop by and say hi at the emergency communications table

If anyone is interested in helping with the e-comms please let me know. **Dick Thiot N5FCB**

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

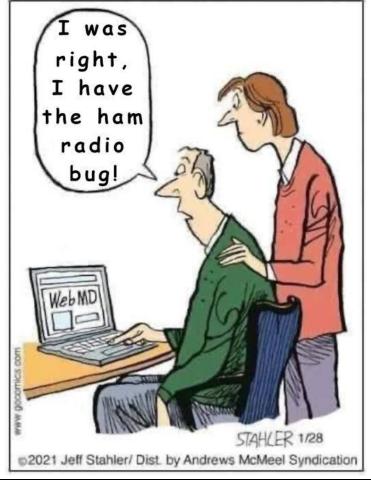












ARRL News

ARRL magazines

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

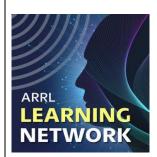
On the Air - NEW! Beginner to intermediate level help and advice - www.arrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine

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



Visit the <u>ARRL Learning Network</u> (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.



About ARRL Audio News

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!

How to Listen to Audio News

ARRL Audio News is distributed through the podcast host **Blubrry.com**.



Practice Morse Code with W1AW

August 08, 2024

The podcast takes a field trip to W1AW, ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station



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2023-2024 ARRL Contest Dates PDF

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

The Shift in Amateur Radio: Embracing Digital Modes

One CQ call on FT8, and I'm heard around the world, but...

As I tune into the bands this morning, it's evident that the landscape of amateur radio is evolving. The 10-meter band, once bustling with CW and SSB activity, is now dominated by digital modes, specifically FT8. The presence of strong signals, with 59+ reports piling up on FT8, contrasts sharply with the silence on the traditional SSB and CW portions of the band. Even with a solar flux index (SFI) near 200 in recent days, the preference has clearly shifted towards digital modes.

Reflecting on this change, it's apparent that CW is gradually following the path of RTTY, becoming an active mode primarily during contests. The ease and accessibility of digital modes, allowing operators to communicate using a keyboard rather than a microphone or key, seems to be a significant factor in this transition. The rise of FT8 and FT4 has been particularly striking, with even major DXpeditions focusing on these modes, sometimes employing advanced features like the new "Super Fox" mode. On 6 meters, the days of frequent CW/SSB activity seem to be waning, and on 160 meters, digital modes dominate outside of contest weekends. It appears that many operators, especially those constrained by HOAs or limited space for antennas, are gravitating towards digital modes that enable effective DX communication without the need for large, visible antennas.

Is this shift bad for the hobby? I don't believe so. Rather, it represents an evolution, with the hobby adapting to modern constraints and technological advances. Contest weekends continue to breathe life into CW, SSB, and RTTY, offering a time when traditional modes still thrive. However, for those new to the hobby, CW might seem like a distant option given the current landscape. I believe CW best days have passed, but I hope I'm wrong.

Not a peep on CW or SSB but on FT8 at 8:30/am in Maine the meter is S7- S9+ with digital signals on a well open 10M band. Many suggested that FT8 was just a passing fad and that traditional modes would regain popularity once the bands opened up. However, that doesn't seem to be the case in my observations.

Note: Several PARK members are active using the digital modes. If you would like more info or help setting up a station, ask a board member or post on the IO Group.

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.

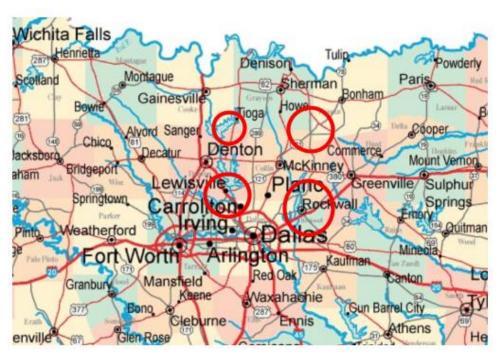
NEED TO START PLANNING ROUTES AND SPOTTING SAFE / CLEAR OPS

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 <u>Hurricane Watch Net</u> 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.

RM Noise uses an Al Model to make decisions with pattern recognition on what sounds are noise and need elimination. This core of RM Noise is a predictive model based on "listening" to a lot of amateur radio traffic.

Al Noise Suppression is an Amateur Radio breakthrough

https://ournetplace.com/rm-noise/

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/ysOq6ywTSzUhttps://youtu.be/rs0i0h4OyMo

https://youtu.be/5Z9136_Nhh4 - Classic Walter Cronkite video

Licensing:

There are <u>3 levels of ham radio licensing</u> in the US, Technician, General and Extra. Each level requires passing a multiple choice exam. The questions used for these exams are all <u>published on the web</u>.

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
- o ARRL Technician Study Guide
- o ARRL General License
- View video classes
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG2S_xV3zJE&t=0s
- Take practice Exams
- o 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 _____\$40.00/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: _____ Apt: Address: 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: _____ First Licensed: ____ Previous Call(s): _____ 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

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

PARK Secretary Only:

Date of Application: