

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 Sep 16, 2024 - 7:00 pm

Field Day 2024 Review, Results, and 2025 Plans - KG5TJF

Mike Tharp will go over this year's exciting PARK Field Day excursion, from setup through the on-location Barbecue dinner. We had a fully solar adventure this year! How did we do it? Come and see.

Don't miss this recap and we can start discussing the plan for next year. Next year it's looking like we'll not be closed down by Plano PARKS and will be able to do the overnight we had planned on resuming in 2024. Also, let's talk Winter Field Day.

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

This month's missive is a repeat from last month as the message here is important:

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.

The klub needs someone to take on the duties of the Public Relations Director. This is a "no impact" "no physical exertion" "no intensity" "low activity" position. Perfectly suited for those of us who can no longer climb towers, pull cables, or run across roofs anymore, but can use a computer to tell others about our club.

If you are interested and willing to get involved, the Public Relations Directorship is for you!

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.

Tim Johnson K5TCJ President PARK

Treasurer Report

Beginning	Balance -	9/1/24
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beginning balance - 9/1/24			
	Prosperity	\$	11,245.98
	PayPal	\$	836.66
	Petty Cash &Checks	\$	1,644.00
Beginning Balance Subtotal		\$	13,726.64
Planned Debits			
	AT&T	\$	(53.76)
	Digital Ocean	\$	(7.60)
	FUMC	\$	(75.00)
Debits Subtotal		\$	(136.36)
Debits		\$	(136.36)
Credits		\$	-
Credits Subtotal			
Ending Balance		\$	13,590.28
Pre-approved Expenses			
	Funded Projects	\$	1,729.51
	Annual Recurring Costs	\$	2,707.40
Pre-approved Expenses Subtotal		\$	4,436.91
Available Funds		\$	9,153.37
Minimum Reserves		\$	4,000.00
Remaining funds		\$	5,153.37

Future Club Meeting Programs

October will be all about the CW Academy. This online CW training course run by our own Dave Koch enables anyone interested in learning code with the training, guidance, and practice to do so. Why do CW in 2024? Because if you like field operations, or low power, or POTA, CW is one of the easiest and best ways to make and confirm contacts with lightweight gear and small batteries. This is a great opportunity to tune in, ask questions, and find out if this could be a good course for you.

PARK has had the pleasure of not just celebrating 50 years with a awards dinner gala, or our Holiday Dinners, or the annual club auction, we've learned about Texans On Mission's emergency response teams, Atwater Kent's early years, Live streaming made easy, how GMRS compares to ham radio, What DMR is, all the features of Ham Radio Deluxe, The North Texas Central linked repeater system, portable go kits, DXpeditions, How to use FT8, and lots more.

While we have a regular set of programs around Field Day, the Holiday Party, the club auction, I'm always looking for people to present to the club and have tried to expand the topics, and try some untried things - like having brought Plano Fire Rescue set up their Mobile Command Center at our Field Day activation in 2023. If you have ideas and contacts for what could be interesting programs for Plano club members, reach out to me at VP@K5PRK.net.

I look forward to seeing what we can bring to PARK, together.

Anthony Burokas General Class Ham (KB3DVS)

VP: Plano Amateur Radio Klub - http://k5prk.net



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.

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	

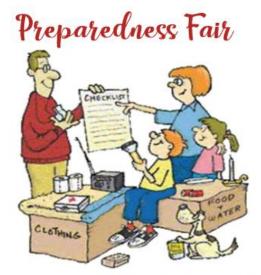
Fred Varian - WD5ERD EC Collin County ARES 972-333-6156 It is amazing to learn some of the simple ways to do things to increase your family's preparedness.

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



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 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**

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

Al and Ham Radio

Contributed by K5MFP Michael

I have been playing some with artificial intelligence or AI for short. I have a free account on both CHATGPT and CLAUDE. All that is needed is your email address and a password. In this case, I logged into CHATGPT. You can use your imagination and give it your input. The results are almost instantly. If you've ever thought about AI, then the opportunity is free for an account on either one. The following is today's questions to CHATGPT:

K5MFP: Good evening. Could you tell me how you gather your information?

CHATGPT: Good evening! I don't gather resources in the traditional sense like a researcher would. Instead, I'm trained on a vast amount of text data from a wide variety of sources, including books, websites, academic papers, and more. This training process involves using advanced machine learning techniques to help me understand language, context, and the relationships between concepts.

To generate responses, I don't access or retrieve information from a database of specific resources. Instead, I use patterns learned during training to generate text that is coherent and relevant to your query. This means I don't have direct access to specific articles, books, or real-time information unless I use a browsing tool to look up current events.

Is there something specific you'd like to know more about?

K5MFP: Yes. Would you tell me a precise description about how compression works in amateur radio?

CHATGPT: Certainly! In amateur radio, compression is used to improve the intelligibility of voice signals, especially under poor signal conditions or when transmitting at low power. Here's a detailed explanation:

How Compression Works in Amateur Radio

1. Purpose of Compression

The main goal of compression in amateur radio is to make voice transmissions clearer and more understandable, particularly in noisy or weak signal environments.

 Compression achieves this by reducing the dynamic range of the audio signal, making quiet sounds louder and reducing the volume of louder sounds.

2. Dynamic Range:

- Dynamic range refers to the difference between the quietest and loudest parts of a signal. In a normal voice signal, this range can be quite large.
- In a noisy environment, the quieter parts of a transmission might get lost or drowned out, making it difficult for the listener to understand the message.

3. The Compression Process:

- Signal Detection: The audio signal from the microphone is first detected and analyzed.
 The compressor identifies the varying levels of volume within the signal.
- Gain Adjustment: The compressor then adjusts the gain (amplification) of the signal.
 Quiet parts of the signal are amplified more than the louder parts. This results in a more uniform audio level.
- Output Control: After the gain adjustment, the signal is transmitted at a consistent level, which makes it easier for the receiver to hear and understand the speech, even if the signal is weak or there is background noise.

4. Compression Ratio:

- The compression ratio determines how much the dynamic range is reduced. A ratio of 3:1, for example, means that for every 3 dB increase in the input signal, the output signal only increases by 1 dB.
- Higher ratios lead to more aggressive compression, which can make the signal sound more "flat" but also more intelligible.

5. Effects on Audio Quality:

- While compression improves intelligibility, it can also affect the naturalness of the voice.
 Excessive compression might make the voice sound distorted or unnatural.
- Amateur radio operators often adjust the compression level to strike a balance between clarity and natural sound quality.

6. Implementation in Radios:

- Many modern amateur radios come with built-in speech compressors. Operators can usually adjust the compression level to suit their operating conditions.
- Some advanced setups might use external compressors or software-based solutions for more precise control.

When to Use Compression:

- Compression is particularly useful in situations where signal strength is weak, such as during long-distance (DX) communications or when operating in noisy environments.
- It's also beneficial in contests or pile-ups where operators need to be heard clearly over other signals.

In summary, compression in amateur radio is a valuable tool that enhances voice clarity by leveling out the audio signal, making transmissions easier to understand under challenging conditions.

This was generated by K5MFP and CHATGPT.

RaDAR is Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio

Registration is Open for the Nov 2nd, 2024 RaDAR Rally

RaDAR is Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio conceived by Eddie Leighton ZS6BNE. RaDAR encourages outdoor operating with a unique challenge: make five contacts and redeploy as fast as possible in four hours.

The RaDAR Challenge has become the RaDAR Rally with some rule tweaks. <u>Please take a look at the complete rules here</u>. If you are interested, please make your plans and register.

Registration will facilitate RaDAR to RaDAR contacts. Email your registration info below to the RaDAR Rally POC, Greg Lane, at lanekg@gmail.com. I'll accept registrations through Nov 1st UTC. If your plans change, send me an update. This is not a contest; it is just for fun! Check out this intro video and the November 2024 roster here.

Registration info includes:

Name	Call
Day (Sat or Sun)	Venue
Start UTC	Conveyances
Bands	Modes
QRP (Y or N)	Spotting method (optional)

Good luck,

Greg N4KGL

Thanks to KR1ZAN for passing this on.

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

If a man says he will fix it, he will. There is no need to remind him every six months.











ARRL News

ARRL magazines

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

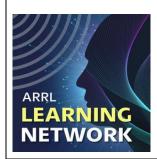
On the Air - NEW! Beginner to intermediate level help and advice - www.arrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine

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



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.

2024-2025 ARRL Contest Dates PDF

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

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.

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

Have you heard that **RWK** (**Richardson Wireless Klub**) is doing a High-Altitude Balloon Launch on Sept 21st? Our September RWK Meeting will cover everything you need to know to participate in the Balloon Launch – either in person or from the comfort of your shack. There will be multiple payloads on the balloon (which we hope will reach 100,000 feet) and you can either listen or communicate through them. We will have several at the meeting so you can see for yourself. You can read more about the launch, as well as read more about the launch that we did in 2021, here High-Altitude Weather Balloon Launch - Sept 21st - The Richardson Wireless Klub (k5rwk.org) Several PARK members have been involved with several previous launches.



ARRL LEARNING CENTER FEATURES TWO NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TRAINING COURSES

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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. 146.540 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:



Meeting Minutes – General Membership Meeting – August 19, 2024 Meeting Hosted by: Sean Kelly, W5SPK

20 Attendees

1904 Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Sean Kelly ran the meeting using the slide deck appropriately as a prop.

- President's Report: No report. Tim Johnson. K5TCJ out of town on personal business.
- Vice President's Report: No report. Anthony Bourkas, KB3VBS was out of town on personal business
- Secretary's Report: Sean Kelly, W5SPK stated he had to finish and upload meeting minutes from the BOD Meeting on August 5, 2024
- > Treasurer's Report: Figures not captured at General Membership Meeting. Will be reported in monthly newsletter.
 - Field Day Results: Sean Kelly did not download the latest slide deck from Mike Tharp prior to the meeting. Mike Tharp agreed to give his report at the net General Membership Meeting.
- Communications Director: Dick Thiot gave his report. New cartridge for the UPS that supports the repeater was approved by the BOD on August 5, 2024.
- Activities Director: Richard Sietz gave his
- Website: No report. James McCormick not present.
- > Public Relations: No report. Sam Parsons not present.

Old Business

Kevin Grantham, N5KRG inquired about the repeater installation at Plano Presby Hospital. Dick Thiot responded that as soon as heat of the summer passes, work will proceed

New Business

NO QUESTIONS / STATEMENTS

1940 - 1950 BREAK

50/50 Raffle

Drawn by Rob Forson won by Neil Gould