

# PARK HERE

#### Officers

(your answers begin here)

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Activites Communications Webmaster Public Relations Newsletter

Tim Johnson, K5TCJ Anthony Burokas, KB3DVS B. J. Watkins, K5BJW Mike Tharp, KG5TJF Richard Seitz, KG5HCJ Miranda Schwarck, KE5YZP James McCormick, KG5KBP

Rob Forson, K5WFR Lonnie Webb, KG5WHQ president@k5prk.net vp@k5prk.net secretary@k5prk.net treasurer@k5prk.net activities@k5prk.net communications@k5prk.net webmaster@k5prk.net

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#### EXPERIMENT AND HAVE FUN WITH YOUR RADIO

Learn more about the club at https://k5prk.net

#### Interact with the club at

https://www.facebook.com/groups/k5prk

Have a groups.io conversation with the club at https://k5prk.groups.io/g/main

Are you ready to read the content in the newsletter? It's all technician accessible. For you're benefit we color the tabs at the top of the page to coorespond to the colors of your ARRL license manual.

#### YOU HAVE BEEN DEPUITIZED AS ROVING JUNIOR NEWSLETTER REPORTER **EXTRAORDINAIRE!**

Go photograph, experiment, solder, attempt to antenna your lawn chairs. Just write it all down and send the information to newsletter@k5prk.net

#### 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.

Our 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

If you notice problems with any of the club's repeaters, contact communications@k5prk.net via email with a detailed description of the issue.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Tim Johnson K5TCJ president@k5prk.net

Being an Odd numbered year, the following Board positions are up for election at our October general meeting:

- · President,
- Treasurer,
- · Activities, and
- Newsletter.

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please let any member of the Board of Directors 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. 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.

I know it's HOT out there but now would be a good time to start planning antenna upgrades, maintenance and winterizing to do when it gets cooler, but before it's too cold to do it.

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 🛁



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### Get your RadioQuest Score (page 17 for generals)

July's giveaway went to Tim Johnson. This month it's the General RadioQuest page and no one has entered yet. Tim is ineligible for this one. Gotta start sending in your scores now, though! Fourth Thursday Lunch: August 28, 2025 Poor Richards @ 11:30a

Next Meeting: August 19, 2025

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello PaRK! School zones are open again. Can you believe it?

Thank you **Daryl Morgesen AF5QJ** for inviting me to help VE the testing for the club supported tech class. We love to see new hams take wing!

Don't forget Fourth Thursday Lunch @ Poor Richards where a few of us will get together and tell great lies and solve world peace.

There will be a newsletter giveaway for generals at the next meeting!

### Re: What have you accomplished this summer?

Lonnie,

I learn better in a class. I had tried ham radio prep and failed miserably.

Garland had an 8 week class. The material and the testing worked well together. I also used hamstudy.org. The test was utilized using that platform so it made the transfer from study to testing seamless.

Glad to see Johnnie as one of the proctors! She provided encouragement and support! Missed by one on the first try. I slapped down another 15 dollars and got like an 85 on the next.

Hope this helps.
Can I also have a link to the newsletter to look at that accomplishments stuff?

Thanks Lonnie and you are doing a great job!

#### **Bruce Cameron**

cameronlpc@sbcglobal.net

You are very welcome. The

newsletter is on the website, linked to the right.

https://k5prk.net/july-2025newsletter/

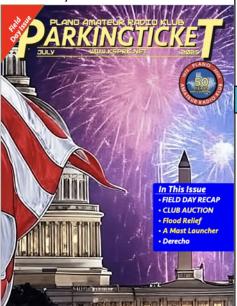
-ed

### Newsletter and Sachse Tech Class

I want to thank you for two specific contributions you've made and are making.

The first is the terrific job you are doing with the Parking Ticket. You must spend days or weeks gathering some of the items you include beyond the club-specific articles. As an example, I enjoyed your recent article about the Titanic's radio operators.

The second is your Technician class at Sachse on July 28th. My grandson, Collin Koch, is now KJ5LYD thanks to the fine job you must have done there. Both his dad, KJ5FR, and I seriously doubted Collin would make it in a one-day class. He has attention



problems, and has had very limited time to prepare for the test due to a very active schedule. Yet he remained in the class all day and passed the test!

That had to be, at least in part, due to the fine job you must have done running the class.

Thanks for posting the mention and photo about Collin in the newsletter, which I have passed on to him and his dad.

73,

#### **Dave W8OV**

dave.w8ov@gmail.com

Thank you, Dave!
—ed

#### First Callsign

My Dad and I were licensed together in 1970 with "back to back" calls. I was lucky enough to get the "LOL" suffix. When I decided I was going to stay in Texas, I changed my call to K5LOL.

73, Tom Yenny, P.E., K5LOL K5LOL@arrl.net

#### Re:First Callsign

I had a business card that said Digital Video Specialist on it, and the FCC issued me DVS, just by chance.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

By Richard Seitz KG5HCJ, Activities Director activites@k5prk.net

Time to prepare ourselves for upcoming communications events that we have supported for many years. The coordinators and directors of these events have always been grateful for our communications efforts, with dedication to safety and reliable, professional support.

The Blackland Triathlon will be held, again, on Labor Day morn-

#### **LETTERS**



ing, September the 1st, at the Oak Point Recreation Center (6000 Jupiter Rd, Plano, TX 75074), and the nearby Collin College campus.



The Plano Balloon Festival will be held September 18th – 21st, at Oak Point Park, along the north side of Spring Creek Parkway, in Plano. We provide volunteer support for field communications, field and perimeter launch safety and chase vehicle communications support. More about this event in the very near future.

Right now, we need volunteers for the Blackland Triathlon. This event has taken place in Plano since 2008, and we have supplied our communications operations for those 17 years. This will be our 18th year in support of this great race - a super communications event that brings many exciting race experiences to life for both Youth and Adults. We are needing radio operators to shadow event officials, support staff and medical services. We will also need a Net Control operator (with a couple of radioequipped runners), radio equipped observers along the course and SAG (Support and Gear) wagon communications.

Within the shadow(ing) group of radio operators, we will need to have one operator that will be able to be on their feet for most of the event. This radio operator will be shadowing the event director. The director, a very passionate, dedicated official, on his feet most of the time, is usually running from fire to fire, and rarely uses a golf cart, unless necessary. A good portion of the director's travels are dedicated to the Start/Finish and transition areas. I know that we have many club members, as well as other's Club's members, that would be able to fulfill this exciting position. Please consider this as an option for volunteering.

We customarily use the UHF, 444.250 repeater for this event, as all HT's can reach it anywhere on the course. Simplex for this event has not worked well in the past with HT's being able to communicate with Net Control, but cannot, necessarily, with each other.

This is a Youth and Adult race event. The Youth are split into Juniors and Seniors, and the Adult race(s) are simply called the Sprint. There are technically three types of races going on, at the same time, within the Sprint. The Sprint Triathlon (Swim, Bike and Run), the Sprint Aquabike (Swim and Bike) and the Sprint Aquathon (Swim and Run). New, this year is an event called the Duathon – a Run/Bike/Run option for the participants. We will not be concerned with the differ-

ent types of races, per se. We will, however, be focused on the participants safety, their bib/ arm/leg numbers, and status or position on the course. The more volunteers that can participate, the more eyes we have on the racers. As the event transitions from the Youth to Adult courses, there will be a few position changes that will be made.

We are usually done with our responsibilities by 12 noon. Most have been able to leave by 11:30.

There will be other information published as the event grows closer.

Please consider volunteering for this event. It is truly a great way to give back to our community.



W2KH



## MINUTES FROM THE JUNE GENERAL MEETING



#### Plano Amateur Radio Klub July 21, 2025 General Meeting Minutes

Officers Present:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Communications Director

**Public Relations Director** 

**Activities Director** 

**Newsletter Editor** 

**VE Coordinator** 

There was no program presentation as this was the Annual P.A.R.K. Auction.

There were 27 members present and 10 guests.

### GARLAND CLUB SWAP

#### GARC Swap Shop - Open to Members & Guests!

We're excited to announce the launch of an informal Swap Shop, held during our regular Open House events at the Garland Amateur Radio Club!

- When: Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00 AM 12:00 PM
- Where: Outside the GARC Clubhouse at 1027 Austin St, Garland. TX
- How it works:

Open to members and nonmembers.

Bring your own table or trunk setup.

You are responsible for your own gear, space, setup, and teardown.

This is a self-managed, individual activity — not organized by the club.

It's a great chance to meet other hams, trade or sell gear, and share stories while enjoying everything else Open House offers!

GARC will not be accepting equipment donations at the moment, and we're always thankful for monetary contributions to help support the club's activities, education, and maintenance.

Let's keep the radio spirit alive see you at the next Open House!



### ADDITIONAL INFO ON HAMCLUBONLINE.COM

Wondering about the Treasurer's report? Missing something from the minutes? Go log in at HamClubOnline.com using the email address you already gave the secretary and set a new password if you need to.



### MINUTES FROM THE LAST BOARD MEETING



#### Plano Amateur Radio Klub Board of Directors Meeting August 4, 2025

Present: (On-Line)
Tim Johnson, President
Anthony Burokas, V.P.
Michael Tharp, Treasurer
B. J. Watkins, Secretary
Rob Forson, Public Relations
Director

Richard Seitz, Activities Director

Lonnie Webb, Newsletter Editor

James McCormick, Webmaster Sean Kelly, Past President Absent: Miranda Schwark, Communications Director Quorum Established: 7:04 p.m.

#### **President**

Technician Class had 12 students with 8 passing the test Those 8 were given the opportunity to take the General Class test but none passed.

Pres. received e-mail from Michael Masterson, Director of Operations for W5YI, the VEC group voicing his displeasure of the 8 people given the option of taking the general class test unprepared. Discussion followed. Elections are upcoming. Discussions regarding open offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Activities Director. Possible candidates mentioned but no confirmed candidates yet. Vice President

Future Meeting Programs:

August – No response from Judge Chris Hill, Field Day overview will substitute.

September – Meshtastic and Plano Balloon Festival Solicitation of Volunteers.

October - Ham 2.0

November - Open

December - Christmas Party

#### **Treasurer**

#### Treasurer's report available on HamClubOnline.com

Field Day – 100% Solar power, 850 bonus points, total points 1,706 Exclusive of at home participants

#### Secretary

85 Current members Need nominations for vacant offices by September General Meeting for ballots

Discussion regarding 25 remaining 50th anniversary pins. To be used in 50/50 drawing with remaining to be used as Christmas party prizes.

**Communications Director** – Absent – No Report

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Need submissions for next newsletter by Aug. 15th.

Webmaster

All websites working properly.

#### **Activities Director**

Blackland Triathalon scheduled for Labor Day – will need communications volunteers.

Plano Balloon Festival coming soon.

**Public Relations** 

No Current Projects

#### **Past President**

St. Jude Carnival scheduled for Sept. 18-21. Requested to provide weather advisory station for event.

**License Testing Coordinator** - Absent / No Report

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



## August 5, 2025 Board of Directors Supplemental Action

On August 5, 2025 the following e-mail was sent by Kip Moravec to the Board of Directors seeking approval for a replacement part for Win-Link. "Jon Galvin and I went to the repeater site to try to figure out what was wrong with Winlink being down.. The Winlink computer is working. The Kenwood TM-271 radio seems to be working. It appears the only thing left is the Kantronics PacketCommunicator3. I do not know how old it is but it is more than 15 years old. I have removed the equipment so we can reconfigure and test easier.

I would like to get approval

from the board to purchase a new modem. The best is the DRA-45 Assembled & Tested (With Plastic Case) which costs \$95 and totals \$107.25 with shipping and handling.

This modem is the same as the one Garland uses and it can do both FM Packet and Vara FM. So if we are going change, we might as well upgrade to a modem that will do VARA-FM also. ""The DRA-45 also has a 9-pin Sub-D connector that is compatible with the Kantronics so we can use the same cable and not have to invest in a new interface cable.

I will order when the Board approves the purchase. "

An e-mail poll was presented to the Board for approval of. Se this expense of \$107.25 with a motion being made by President Tim Johnson, seconded by Director Rob Forson, with "aye" votes by Newsletter Editor Lonnie Webb, Vice President Anthony Burokas, and Secretary B. J. Watkins. No response was received from Treasurer Michael Tharp, Communications Director Miranda Schwark, Webmaster **James McCormick or Activities** Director Richard Seitz. The motion is approved by a 5/4 majority vote.

Purchase is hereby ordered.

B. J. Watkins, P.A.R.K Secretary.

#### **CLUB MEETING**



By Tim Johnson K5TCJ president@k5prk.net

WOW! We had a great turn-out last night, and most items brought in to sell, have new homes.

Thank you, members and guests who came out; and THANK YOU all the PARK board members who worked the event. Without all your efforts we couldn't have pulled off another successful auction.

And to all our guests, you are invited to come back to our regular monthly meetings and becme a part of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub.

When: The 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00PM Where: First Methodist Church of Plano, 3160 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. (NW corner of Parker Rd and Spring Creek Parkway)
Remember, next July, we do it all over again.



EYERY JULY, PARK HOLDS A CLUB HARDWARE AUCTION AS A FUNDRAISER. SOME ITEMS ARE SPLIT WITH THE CLUB, SOME ARE NOT, AND SOME ARE TOTAL GIYEAWAYS.

#### **CLUB MEETING**













Hey, Park! I need photos of ham radio happening around you! Your Radios, your mag mount, QSL cards, and expecially grandkids & nephews running "third-party" on your rigs.

Ť

#### ARRL CLUB NEWS

By Steve Lott Smith, KG5VK ARRL North Texas Section Manager Telephone 318-470-9806 kg5vk@arrl.org

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) is proud to announce updates on one of our Premiere Members Katherine KT5KMF is not only a long-standing club member, but she is also shattering glass ceilings wherever she goes.

#### Katherine Forson KT5KMF was selected for the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Youth Award in 2021

(https://www.arrl.org/news/katherine-forson-kt5kmf-is-the-recipient-of-the-2021-arrl-hiram-percy-maxim-memorial-award)

Katherine Forson, KT5KMF, has been reelected president of W5AC, the Texas A&M University radio club. W5AC has the distinction of being the oldest radio club in the State of Texas while Katherine has the distinction of being the first female president of W5AC.

Besides holding the office of president, Katherine is the newsletter editor and CVE (Contact Volunteer Examiner) for the club. She was instrumental in moving them from paper to electronic testing and assisted VEC W5YI in implementing their student testing program, which covers licensing fees for eligible students.

Katherine, a meteorology major at Texas A&M, is the treasurer of TAMSCAMS, the student chapter of the American Meteorological Society. She is also a member and radio and licensing



Katherine KT5KMF(Photo Credit K5WFR) director of TASC, the university

storm chase team.

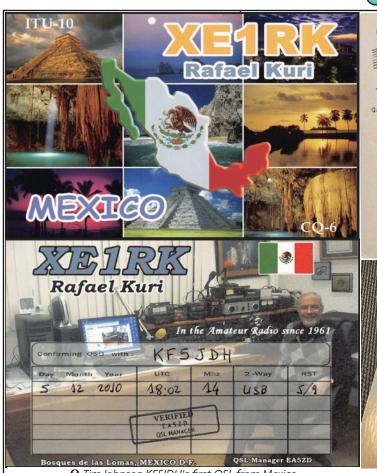
She has participated in multiple study abroad programs at Texas A&M which have provided her the opportunity to operate

her the opportunity to operate from Barbados, Australia, Tasmania, Argentina and Antarctica. Katherine is both an ARRL Scholarship and a NOAA

Hollings Scholarship winner; as part of the Hollings award, she is interning with NOAA in Boulder, Colorado this summer. She is a former ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim award winner and section youth coordinator for the ARRL North Texas Section.

Cheers! 🛋

#### OSL CARDS







**○** Tim Johnson KF5JDH's first QSL from Mexico

• Micheal Payne K5MFP shares a QSL from Ukraine.



• Johnnie Young KG5CQO's first QSL card, and the K5PRK 45th Anniversary QSL card.



### MORGAN SYSTEMS TECHNICAL BULLETIN

### Grounding Coaxial Cable Shields:Why, Where, and How

Even today it's a controversial subject—but we don't know why. The purpose and importance of grounding coaxial line shields is so critical to safe and clean telecommunication station operation that it should not be a matter of discussion, except as a how-to subject such as this paper represents.

Coaxial cable used in radio and television work is referred to as unbalanced line primarily because the center conductor carries the current and signal voltage nearly all to itself. The shield of the transmission line is just that—a shield. It carries no current except for a small induced current flowing as the result of induction by length. In a perfectly matched system the current in the shield is almost nil. That's also why in most modern applications coaxial cable shields are fitted to connectors without soldering - only compression fitting. Center conductors carry the current during transmission so they are generally soldered in place.

But that doesn't mean that the shield has no work to do, and that's the purpose of this brief technical narrative. Coaxial shields provide a protection for the center conductor and prevent ground level line leakage during transmission, noise pickup from external local sources during reception, continuous impedance matching, and physical rigidity to the line.

Short distance grounding of coaxial shields introduces an earthen neutral integrity to the shield and provides a drain source for the very types of disturbances the shield is designed to resist. It's very common to hear of stories relating how interference to other services disappeared or reception noise was reduced when shield grounding was accomplished. In lightning protection applications the shield is an exposed element, and when lightning strikes overhead or a direct "hit" occurs to antennas and tower frames it's not unusual to find as much as 80% of the applied current seeking ground through the transmission line flows down the shield. If the lightning currents do not find earth through a dissipation point before reaching the radio equipment chassis then damage to the station gear will nearly always result. In severe cases injury or loss of structure can occur.

Grounding of shields is easy and requires little experience or effort. The connections for grounding should always be done at ground level if maximum value is to be obtained, and the lead length from shield to earth entry point (the dirt) should be kept as short as possible - less than a foot if possible. Using a commercial grounding block is a very neat way of accomplishing the task, but making your own shield connections can, be done as well. Cutting the cable, inserting connectors and grounding the shield by attachment to the connectors is a common method but suffers from the inevitable impedance "bump" in the line at

that point and the possibility of exposure to water or contaminants. Removing the outer plastic with a sharp knife carefully, wrapping a solid copper wire around the exposed shield and then grounding the wire is another method that seems to work well and doesn't leave an impedance irregularity in the line.

However the work is done is far less important than making sure it gets done, and establishing a common point for multiple shield grounding makes sense in stations that use many different transmission lines. But the most important element is to be sure that the coaxial cable lines are ALWAYS brought to the ground surface first, and that shield grounding, is accomplished at that point BEFORE the cable continues on its way to reach station equipment. Keep the connections clean, tight, and waterproof—then relax and enjoy the benefits of your efforts!

Visit us online at

www.surgestop.com. 🛋

#### TECH CLASS AND TESTING IN LUCAS

By Tim Johnson KF5JDH president@k5prk.net

Earlier this month, PARK held a Technician class and testing session at the Lucas Fire Station.

Congratulations to the following "New Hams" who took and passed the exam.

Apiwan Born Hunter W Ervin Jeremy S Jackson George M Kapnas II David A McLeod Christopher L Mocko Jose Villa William M Wache

They have been invited to take advantage of their complimentary PARK membership for the remainder of the year and become members of PARK. We hope to see them at future meetings.

Thank you to William Ingram N5WOI and Daryl Morgeson AF5QJ for coordinating the class and testing, respectively.

And to all the instructors and volunteer examiners who make these classes and exams possible.



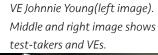


VE Nell Bartels and instructor Tim Johnson.

VE Cameron Koch.

Class coordinator VE Daryl Morgenson.

VE Rob Forson and daughter
VE Katherine Forson .





#### THE RICH HISTORY OF HAM RADIO CULTURE

### Ham Radio's Technical Culture



Kristen Haring

By: Kristen Haring

Drawing on a wealth of personal accounts found in magazines, newsletters, and trade journals, historian Kristen Haring provides an inside look at ham radio culture and its impact on hobbyists' lives. This is an excerpt from her book pictured above.

Learning the group culture was essential to becoming a ham, and ham radio publications taught behavioral expectations to new hobbyists right along with technical lessons. The "ABC's of Ham Radio" welcomed readers to "the ranks of the grandest hobby in the world the great international fraternity of radio hams!" then indicated in the very next sentence that "To really belong, you're going to have to go along with the standard operating procedures universally accepted by radio amateurs."

Most manuals devoted a chapter to operating a wireless sta-

tion, including an overview of on-air etiquette. One author noted that "a sense of courtesy is important" and told hams not to transmit on frequencies already in use. With surprising regularity, handbooks also endorsed general personal "qualities of the true amateur" such as "inquisitiveness, persistence, improvisation, imagination and an open mind." The exchange of technical ideas through magazine columns was cited on one occasion as a testament to the fact that "The amateur spirit has always been characterized by friendliness, helpfulness and an eagerness to share one's knowledge, tricks and pet circuits with others." The constant stream of brief prescriptions of norms and values in hobby publications served as a powerful source of enculturation into the ham community.

#### **Code of Behavior**

A concise, and the best known, list of good hobbyist conduct was the "Amateur's Code" distributed by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). "The amateur" portrayed there is "gentlemanly," "loyal," "progressive," "friendly," "balanced," and "patriotic." The League has printed these six traits prominently in the front of its annual "Radio Amateur's Handbook" since the 1920s. Underscoring the instructional nature of the code, a didactic explanation followed each adjective. A ham's progressivism, for instance, meant that "He keeps his station abreast of science. It is built well and effi-

ciently. His operating practice is clean and regular." The League's role as a lobbying agency shone through in deeming a hobbyist "gentlemanly" for abiding "by the pledges given by the ARRL in his behalf to the public and the Government." The ARRL's "Amateur's Code" provided a model for hams to live up to and presented a favorable image of hams to outsiders. Given how frequently the popular press reprinted the standards as if they offered a neutral description of hobbyists, the "Amateur's Code" succeeded as a form of public relations.

The social ties of the ham community exerted peer pressure to enforce the rules set for members' behavior. Praising the effectiveness of "self policing" within hobby radio, a CQ magazine article called "The weight and influence of amateur approval [...] a very strong element in forcing the amateur to abide by the rules." A handbook instructed, "At all times keep your conduct beyond reproach," and tried to win compliance by reminding the reader, "You represent the amateur fraternity — any action on your part, good or bad, will reflect on all other hams."

This segment reprinted with the permission of MIT Reader. You can read the rest of this article by following this URL: https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/the-rich-history-of-ham-radio-culture/

#### **MEETUP**

#### FOURTH THURSDAY LUNCH



Poor Richard's Cafe at 11:30a on the Fourth Thursday of the month. We who are able to get away join up and dine on the fine local diner food.

> Fourth Thursday Lunch: August 28, 2025 Poor Richards @ 11:30a



#### I DARE YOU!

Take a stab!

I dare you to beat my score. It isn't necessary to hit my score quickly. Just share your score on QRZ or facebook.

We'll enjoy growing along with you.

If my math is right I scored 20 points while I was a technician.

The glove is thrown, my radio friends.

YOU can do it!
—KG5WHQ



## RADIO QUEST

CHNICIAN LEVEL
Found an Elmer(someone to answer how-to questions)
Listened on a frequency before talking
Used your call sign on your handy talkie(HT)
Spoke to another person on a regular (simplex) frequency)
Spoke on club repeater
Sent an APRS update
Logged in on QRZ.com and created a logbook
Made a contact via satellite/ISS on an HT
Got my grid location
Gave a signal report
Send a CW/Morse code CQ
Attended a ham club meeting
Joined the ARRL
Checked-in on a club info net
Asked a question on a net or a club meeting
Joined breakfast Eyeball QSO on Saturday
Passed a license exam
Signed up for EchoLink
Bought a cheap Chinese radio
Bought an expensive Japanese radio
Built a radio
Built a j-pole/2m antenna
Made a balun
Made an RF choke
Made a go-bag/go-box
Went on a POTA expedition
Asked a new contact what radio/ antenna they were using
Was asked what radio/antenna you are using
Served as a net control operator
Join the ARRL

CHECK ALL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED. HAVE YOU FULFILLED THIS MONTH'S QUEST?

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S RADIOQUEST? LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID. POST SCREENCAPS ON FACEBOOK FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

newsletter@k5prk.net

### RADIO QUEST

(	GENERAL LEVEL
	Tuned up your first HF frequency
	Made a DX contact(out of the continental US)
	Joined a traffic net
	Sent a radiogram
	Worked a Field Day contact
	Participated in a contest
	Used a digital mode
	Sent an email over the radio
	Connected your radio to the computer/internet
	Used a SWR meter
	Grounded your station
	Grounded your antenna
	Applied a lightning arrestor
	Drove a ground rod
	Computed RF emissions for your station
	Ran your station on a battery
	Powered your station from a car power supply
	Created your first scratch paper log
	Installed logging software(such as hamrs/n1mm)
	Logged on to LOTW
	Used a pi*star
	Used a Watt meter
	Made a counterpoise
	Threw a wire up in a tree for an antenna
	Know who Dave Cassler is
	Have given a Roger Roger (RR)
	Stood on a ladder and wondered "Will it antenna?"
	Joined RACES

#### RADIO QUEST Tuned up your first HF frequency Made a DX contact(out of the continental US) oined a traffic net Sent a radiogram Worked a Field Day contact Participated in a contest Used a digital mode Sent an email over the radio Connected your radio to the computer/internet Used a SWR meter Grounded your station Grounded vour antenna Applied a lightning arrestor Drove a ground rod Computed RF emissions for your station Ran your station on a battery Powered your station from a car Created your first scratch paper log Installed logging software(such as hamrs/n1mm) Logged on to LOTW Used a pi\*star Used a Watt meter Made a counterpoise Threw a wire up in a tree for an antenna (now who Dave Cassler is Have given a Roger Roger (RR) Stood on a ladder and wondered "Will it antenna?" loined RACES Listened to a weather net CHECK ALL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED. HAVE YOU FULFILLED THIS MONTH'S QUEST?

I DARE YOU!

Take a stab!

I dare you to beat my score. It isn't necessary to hit my score quickly. Just share your score on QRZ or facebook.

We'll enjoy growing along with you.

If my math is right I scored 27 points while I was a general.

The glove is thrown, my radio friends.

YOU can do it! —KG5WHO

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S RADIOQUEST?

LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID. POST

SCREENCAPS ON FACEBOOK FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

CHECK ALL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED. HAVE YOU FULFILLED THIS MONTH'S QUEST?

Listened to a weather net

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S RADIOQUEST? LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID. POST SCREENCAPS ON FACEBOOK FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

newsletter@k5prk.net

**Email** your scores to NEWSLETTER@K5PRK.NET There will be a prize.

#### THE HISTORY OF SKYWARN (PART 1 OF 3)

By Scott Whitfield KE5AYC scott.whitfield@icloud.com

**SKYWARN** is a nation wide volunteer network of trained severe weather "storm spotters." This program was originally developed by the National Weather Service (NWS) in the late 1960's on how the public can Identify, Evaluate, and Report severe weather events.

Storm spotting is a form of weather spotting in which observers watch for the approach of severe weather, monitor its development and progression, and actively relay their findings to local authorities.

**History:** storm spotting was mainly carried out by trained individuals in either the military, aviation, or law enforcement fields of service. It was not until 1947 that volunteer spotting, as it exists today, was born. After a series of vicious tornado outbreaks hit the state of Texas in 1947, the state placed special emphasis on volunteer spotting, and the local weather offices began to offer basic training classes to the general public. Spotting required the delivery of timely information so that warnings could be issued as quickly as possible, thus civilian landline phone calls and amateur radiooperators provided the most efficient and fastest means of communication. While phone lines were reliable to a degree, a common problem was the loss of service when an approaching storm damaged phone lines in its path. This eventually led to

amateur radio becoming the predominant mean of communication and resulted in the installation of special amateur radio work zones within local weather offices. Volunteer spotters would come into the local office and run a radio net from within, directly relaying information to meteorologists.

The 1950s saw the deployment of the first dedicated weather radars in the United States, and by this time, civilian spotter networks were commonplace. The new reflectivity-only radars provided meteorologists with basic information and helped identify potentially severe storms, but due to the nature of weather radar, most precipitation was detected at a height of 1 kilometer or more above the ground. Ultimately, the radar cannot see what exactly occurs at the surface of the earth, and storm spotters now correlated ground truthing with radar signatures. This early conventional radar showed intensity of echoes, inferring precipitation intensity and types, and the horizontal and vertical distributions provided information about storm structures and processes. The hook echo was a major method used as an indicator for potential for tornadic activity during the first decades of weather radar. During the 1990s in the US, Doppler weather radar was deployed, providing velocity data on echoes flowing toward and away from the radar location, which enabled

inferences about storm rotation. such as mesocyclones, and other dynamics, as well as data on downbursts (and wind shear aloft). The 2010s brought polarization radar in the US, which enabled confirmation of the presence of stronger tornadoes by discerning nonmeteorological echoes colocated with rotation in velocity data, which indicates the presence of lofted debris. However, radar is still limited by factors such as not capturing near surface environment and limitations on spatial and temporal resolution. Therefore, ground truth information remains important.

Scott Whitfield KE5AYC is an American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame Inductee of 2021, a weather junkie, teacher, and serves the ham radio community as a weather spotter and storm chaser.



#### RICHARDSON AREA BALLOONING

By KE5GDB Good evening!

[Please forward this to any other interested clubs/groups/parties]

https://www.k5rwk.org/ 2025/08/13/rwk-balloon-launchannouncement-august-23rd/

The Richardson Area Balloonatics / Richardson Wireless Klub will be launching a high-altitude weather balloon on Saturday August 23rd, weather and upper atmosphere conditions permitting. The launch will be just north of the DFW metroplex, but near apogee at 100,000ft+ we expect coverage to include most of Texas and Oklahoma, with some Arkansas and Louisiana coverage as well. The flight is expected to last around 2.5 hours (9:00AM to ~11:00AM ascent, and on the ground by noon). Stations beyond line-of-sight are encouraged to listen for the 20m beacon on the balloon (details below).

The launch site will be chosen based on winds aloft and target landing areas. Expect it to be in northern Collin or Denton counties.

We will have a special event QSL card if you receive images/ tracking data from the balloon or via Wenet at https:// make contact through the onboard repeater. See https:// k5rwk.org/balloons on launch day to submit for a QSL card or Worked All Payloads ("WAP") award.

Flight goals:

- \* Finally capture some 360° camera footage from launch to burst.
- \* Test 20m HF 50-baud Horus Binary v2 beacon on 14.070MHz @ 10mW with dipole antenna -what does the propagation look like beyond the radio horizon? (RX is easy, just feed sideband audio to your PC. Details at https://github.com/ projecthorus/horusdemodlib/ wiki#how-do-i-receive-it).
  - \* Fly a Geiger counter.
- \* Measure pressure balloon pressure delta.
- \* Prove data aggregator concept using Pi Pico W + BLE to Raspberry Pi (small sensors to Wenet payload).

Ways to participate from afar:

- \* Track the payloads at https:// amateur.sondehub.org/ (look for K5RWK, K5UTD, K5PRK, and KE5GDB-Wenet).
- \* Receive SSTV pictures in realtime - 432.5 MHz / Robot 36.
- \* Make contacts through the crossband repeater - 147.435MHz PL 67.0 uplink, 446.0 (no PL) downlink.
- \* Decode our tracking payloads - "Horus Binary v2" on 432.6, 432.7, and 432.9 MHz (decode using upper sideband and Horus GUI or https:// horus.sondehub.org)
- \* Watch live images stream in ssdv.habhub.org/KE5GDB

Participate in person:

- \* Launch site TBD -- will be north of DFW, likely in Collin or Denton county.
- \* Launch prep begins at 8:00AM with a target launch

time of 9:00AM.

- \* If chasing, please carpool -we've had congestion issues before.
- \* Chase simplex is on 146.54MHz -- please bring an HT that can talk on 146.54 if chasing
- \* Chase crew should bring boots, long pants, plenty of bug spray, and lots of water! Be prepared for a bit of a hike and high temperatures!

I'll be sending more details regularly to k5rwk@groups.io and parkballoon@k5prk.groups.io and a final update on Friday 8/22 to this group.

We hope to see you at the launch or hear you on the repeater!

73 de KE5GDB 🖼



Red Bull Yagi--because.

AUGU <del>S</del> T				
Sunday  1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A  7p DARC (Dallas) Meeting on the Air  7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C  8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B  9p Collin County ARES @ WD5ERD  222 MHz and Up Distance Contest  North American QSO Party, CW  Hemus VHF Contest - 144 MHz  SARL HF Phone Contest	7p K5PRK Board Meeting @ Jits 7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 7:30p RWK Meeting on the Air @ 147.12, PL 110.9 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54 K1USN Slow Speed Test ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial (MWC) ICWC Medium Speed Test	Tuesday 5 7p DARC (Dallas) General Meeting 7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B ARS Spartan Sprint ZL Sprint Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest ICWC Medium Speed Test		
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B WAE DX Contest, CW SKCC Weekend Sprintathon YB Bekasi Merdeka Contest Maryland-DC QSO Party SARL HF Digital Contest	7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54 K1USN Slow Speed Test 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial (MWC) ICWC Medium Speed Test MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 12 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest ICWC Medium Speed Test ZL Sprint DARC FT4 Contest		
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 9p Collin County ARES Training Net @ W5MRC 10 GHz and up - round 1 EME - 2.3 GHz and up Rookie Roundup - RTTY SARTG WW RTTY Contest Russian District Award Contest SARL Youth QSO Party	7 6p VE Testing @ K5PRK 7p K5PRK General Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8p American Legion Post 315 Radio Club Net @ W5SRA 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54 K1USN Slow Speed Test ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial (MWC) RSGB FT4 Contest ICWC Medium Speed Test	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 19 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest ICWC Medium Speed Test ZL Sprint		
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B Hawaii QSO Party ARSI VU DX Contest YO DX HF Contest Ohio QSO Party CVA DX Contest, SSB SARL HF CW Contest	7p DARC (Dallas) Geek Net @ W5FC 7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC (McKinney) Simplex Net @ 146.54 K1USN Slow Speed Test QCX Challenge ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL26 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest ICWC Medium Speed Test QCX Challenge ZL Sprint		
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B SCRY/RTTYOps WW RTTY Contest ALARA Contest U.S. Islands QSO Party World Wide Digi DX Contest Colorado QSO Party Kansas QSO Party				

#### **CLUB CALENDAR**

	AUG	GU <del>S</del> T	
Wednesday 6	Thursday	7 Friday 8	Saturday 9
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest Phone Weekly Test A1Club AWT CWops Test (CWT) Mini-Test 40 Mini-Test 80	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 7p HAM (Mesquite) Monthly Meeting 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest NRAU 10m Activity Contest SKCC Sprint Europe CWops Test (CWT)	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest QRP Fox Hunt NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint K1USN Slow Speed Test	9a W5YI VE Test Session @ Wylie 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A WAE DX Contest, CW FISTS Saturday Sprint SKCC Weekend Sprintathon YB Bekasi Merdeka Contest Maryland-DC QSO Party Kentucky State Parks on the Air 50 MHz Fall Sprint
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8:30p NTx ARES Net @ 3860 MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144MHz Scatter NAQCC CW Sprint Phone Weekly Test A1Club AWT CWops Test (CWT) VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini-Test 40 Mini-Test 80	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ 14 Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet CWops Test (CWT)	NCCC FT4 Sprint QRP Fox Hunt Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint K1USN Slow Speed Test	9a W5SRA Laurel VE Test Session 12p Garland "Hands-On" Gathering 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A 10 GHz and up - round 1 EME - 2.3 GHz and up SARTG WW RTTY Contest Russian District Award Contest SARL Youth QSO Party Keyman's Club of Japan Contest Feld Hell Sprint North American QSO Party, SSB
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 7p Murphy CERT Net @W5SRA Phone Weekly Test A1Club AWT CWops Test (CWT) Mini-Test 40 Mini-Test 80	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest CWops Test (CWT) NTC QSO Party	NCCC FT4 Sprint QRP Fox Hunt Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint K1USN Slow Speed Test	9a GARC Swap Shap @ GARC Clubhouse 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A Hawaii QSO Party ARSI VU DX Contest YO DX HF Contest Ohio QSO Party CVA DX Contest, SSB
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB  SKCC Sprint  Phone Weekly Test  A1Club AWT  CWops Test (CWT)  Mini-Test 40  Mini-Test 80	12p Fourth Thursday Ham Lunch 11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet CWops Test (CWT)	QRP Fox Hunt Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint K1USN Slow Speed Test SCRY/RTTYOps WW RTTY Contest	7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A SCRY/RTTYOps WW RTTY Contest Feld Hell Sprint ALARA Contest U.S. Islands QSO Party World Wide Digi DX Contest Colorado QSO Party Kansas QSO Party

#### **CLUB CALENDAR**

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	31	Monday 1	Tuesday 2			
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B	<u> </u>	7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 7:30p RWK Meeting on the Air @ 147.12, PL110.9 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p DARC (Dallas) General Meeting 7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net			
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p DARC (Dallas) Meeting on the Air 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 9p Collin County ARES @ WD5ERD	7	7p K5PRK Board Meeting 7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 9 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net			
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B	14	7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz  8p American Legion Post 315 Radio Club Net @ W5SRA 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL <b>16</b> 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net			
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 7p DARC(Dallas) Meeting On The Air 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B 9p Collin County ARES Training Net @ W5MRC	21	6p VE Testing @ K5PRK  7p K5PRK General Meeting  7p DARC (Dallas) Geek Net  7p GARC (Garland) Club Meeting  7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz  8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 23 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net			
1p Military Veterans D-Star Net @ REF026A 2p Texas RACES Net (HF) @ 7.255 MHz 7p Intl D-Star Net @ REF001C 8p K5TIT D-Star Net @ REF33B	28	7:30p Texas ARES Net @ 3.873 MHz 29 8:30p MARC Simplex net	7p HAM (Mesquite) InfoNet @ WJ5J (145.310 PL 30 110.9) 7:30p Ark-La-Tex D-Star Net @ REF048B 8p Texas D-Star Net @ REF004B 8p Lucas Open Net			

#### CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER							
Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6				
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 7p HAM (Mesquite) Monthly Meeting 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	<b>8:30,9a</b> North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in	12p Garland "Hands-On" Gathering 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A				
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 10 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ 11 Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio 12 Club weekly check in	9a W5YI VE Test Session @ Wylie 13 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A				
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 17 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz 7p Murphy CERT Net @ W5SRA	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ 18 Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio 19 Club weekly check in	9a W5SRA Laurel VE Test Session 20 9a GARC (Garland) ECC Open House 9a GARC Swap Shap @ GARC Clubhouse 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A				
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ <b>24</b> 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	12p Fourth Thursday Lunch 11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio 26 Club weekly check in	<b>7p</b> DARC (Dallas) Tech Net <b>27 9p</b> Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A				
6:50p NTx Readiness QST Net @ 7.27750 MHz LSB 8p PARK Informal Net @ 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) 8p Simplex Net @ 146.54 MHz	11a GARC (Garland) Crony Lunch @ 2 Judy's Cafe 8p GARC (Garland) InfoNet 8p Denton County ARES Training Net	8:30,9a North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in	12p Garland "Hands-On" Gathering 4 7p DARC (Dallas) Tech Net 9p Saturday Night D-STAR Net@REF029A				