

Field Day
in Photos!

PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

P

T

JULY

WWW.K5PRK.NET

2026



Plano Amateur Radio Klub



K5PRK.NET

Amateur Radio Field Day

Visitors Welcome

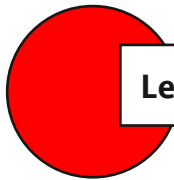
PARK HERE

Officers

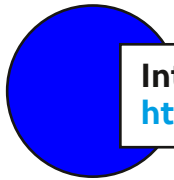
(your answers begin here)

President	Mike Tharp KG5TJF	president@k5prk.net
Vice President	Bruce Cameron K6IL	vp@k5prk.net
Secretary	Damon Koch K5OCH	secretary@k5prk.net
Treasurer	B. J. Watkins K5BJW	treasurer@k5prk.net
Activities	Katherine Forson KT5KMF	activities@k5prk.net
Communications	Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP	communications@k5prk.net
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Public Relations	Rob Forson K5WFR	pr@k5prk.net
Newsletter	Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ	newsletter@k5prk.net

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.

YOU HAVE BEEN DEPUTIZED 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



Plano Amateur Radio Klub and Field Day

By Mike Tharp KG5TJF
president@k5prk.net

Field Day update for this year: First, the City of Plano threw us a curve ball 4 days before Field Day by saying we couldn't stay overnight and couldn't erect our aluminum masts at Russell Creek. The heat index on Saturday and Sunday was brutal—well over 100 degrees. The wind was just below hurricane strength both Saturday and Sunday. It was GREAT!

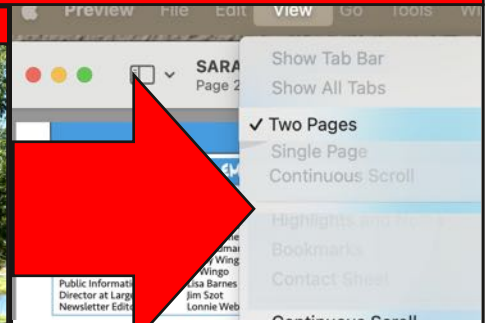
Our group made lemonade from lemons. **BJ Watkins** put together a new antenna mast base in 3 days. The mast was practically invisible from a distance. We used the base to connect a 40 meter dipole. We set up the club's Buddypole where **Dave Koch** and **Antonin Yang** operated CW on 15 meters all day Saturday. **Neil Gould** brought his own vertical and operated on 20 meters.

On the cover:
K5PRK at Field Day. Visitors are always welcome.

Rob and Katherine Forson set up an FT-8 station and were also tracking the Richardson club's balloon launch. Miranda brought out the Batmobile too. **Bob Bartels** set up a DMR station to demonstrate to any visitors who happened by as well.

Speaking of visitors, we had a lot of them this weekend. Chief among those visitors was the City of Plano Emergency Coordinator—Carrie Little! Rob sent out 200 emails and the only dignitary to show up was the City of Plano Emergency Coordinator—CARRIE LITTLE! I told Rob afterwards it was like he shot an arrow blindfolded and hit the bull's eye! Carrie's visit was a highlight of the day. Her message was heartening. In her role as Emergency Coordinator, Carrie would like to investigate ways that the city and PARK could work together in an emergency. So, please stay tuned; there may be more to come from this effort.

We spent Sunday making some more contacts and welcoming a few visitors. Sunday was also a day to test antennas. Ian Duncan got his DX Commander up and running and then he helped me tune my home brew buddy-



pole. The buddypole was stress tested and had some weak points both in design and construction. Ian held an impromptu class on how to use a NanoVNA analyzer too.

Today, the plan is to resume Field Day operations at Hoblitzelle. The city has designated this as an approved site for setting up our taller masts and for operating overnight. At the same time, we will look into alternate locations—maybe Allen. Anyway, "stay tuned."

My feeling is that this was the best Field Day since I took over in 2020. **Rob and Katherine** did a fantastic job promoting the event and those who came out to operate showed how flexible we can be. I really do believe that this year's Field Day was a good demonstration of how our club can operate under less than ideal circumstances.

Please keep an eye out for updates regarding our communications with the city. This could be an exciting opportunity for PARK!" 📶

VE Testing:
July 20, 2026 at 6p

Next Meeting:
July 20, 2026 at 7p

UPDATES

ACTIVITIES

By Katherine Forson KT5KMF
activities@k5prk.net

Howdy everyone!

Field Day was an absolute success! We made lots of contacts and had plenty of visitors, even with the last minute challenges that were thrown at us. I talked to several potential future Klub members, including a few families that are looking to get licensed!

We also had a visitor from the City of Plano! Director of Emergency Management Carrie Little stopped by and we had a great conversation about future collaboration between PARK and Plano Emergency Management. I'm looking forward to seeing where this goes!

Hopefully we've all had some time to recover from Field Day, because the momentum isn't slowing down any time soon! We have two upcoming events this month. The first is an introduction to foxhunting on Saturday, July 11th. We will meet at the Russell Creek Pavilion at 9am, where we will have a demonstration followed by hunts for two transmitters in the park. Be sure to bring your HT! We're also bringing back the PARK in the Park series beginning on Saturday, July 25th. This will be at Hoblitzelle Park, also at 9am. Bring your radio, whether new, well-used, or just hasn't been dusted off in a while, and take advantage of an opportunity to operate and hang out with some fellow hams!

Hope to see y'all there! 📻

PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Rob Forson K5WFR
pr@k5prk.net

Details about the July equipment auction have been sent to the Richardson, Garland, Rockwall, Sachse, Lucas, McKinney, Grayson County, LAARK, LARA, DCARA and Metrocrest clubs. The PARK website has been updated with information about this year's sale, along with several other upcoming events.

COMMUNICATIONS

By Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP
communications@k5prk.net

Hello everyone,
Ian and I

- rewired the whole repeater rack today,
- upgraded the Allstar unit to a new Pi
- retired the other Pi, everything runs on one now
- changed out the switch to support POE for other device related expansions that are POE capable,
- added the industrial PC for winlink, kept the laptop in for local management, added JetKVM for non interfering management of the new winlink server.
- Freed up about 10U of space via removing extra shelves and respacing things.

I am still working on getting winlink leveled out and Ian is still working on getting the Allstar audio repeating correctly. The intent is to have this finished tonight, tomorrow before 4th events start at the latest.

We will have a summary at the board meeting.



*A sampling of exchanges between klub members:**About Field Day:*

Anthony was at Field Day, he set up his VHF station again this year, working 6m, 2m, and 440 using two antennas atop a 30-foot "painters pole"
—Anthony Burokas KB3DVS

Good point—what was your furthest VHF contact and what frequency?
—Mike Tharp KG5TJF

I believe our best CW DX were contacts with Hawaii and Costa Rica using PARK's Buddipole "V" dipole.
—Dave W8OV

I think I got one in Idaho or Ohio, something of that name.
—Anthony Burokas KB3DVS

Mike,
 Thanks for posting your presentation. The echoing at the meeting Monday made it nearly impossible for me to understand much.
 FYI: I'll bring my CW-only Elecraft K2 transceiver (about 90-95 W output), plus key, etc. I can also bring and use an emergency power source, if needed or desirable (let me know). I'll also bring a back-up 10W transceiver—just in case.

Other CW operators are welcome. Bring your own paddle or straight key if you wish. The connector for a paddle needs to be a 3.5mm stereo (TRS). For a straight key the connector must be a 3.5mm stereo (TRS) without the Ring connected (use tip and sleeve only). For headset or earphones, a 3.5mm TRS connector fits the radio. I will have a 1/4" to 3.5mm TRS adapter available if needed for key or 'phones.

A large "No loud talking near the CW station, please." sign would help greatly as nearby talking often disrupts copying CW. (Or maybe one that just says "Beware of the coffee-drinking CW operator!")
—Dave W8OV

Hey Dave,
 Do you have a small antenna rig we could use too?

—Mike Tharp KG5TJF

I have a Buddipole set I bought 2nd hand years ago, and haven't used much at all. I'll have to do some reading before Saturday.

I think its about time we hold a "meeting" at an open City Council meeting and ask the City if it expects help from amateur radio operators in case of an emergency, considering the several "last minute" restrictions of our once-a-year Field Day which has, as one of its goals, emergency preparation for communications.
—Dave W8OV

In the end, Field Day isn't a contest. This year is going to be an exercise in being adaptable in less than ideal situations, along with a focus on demonstrating radio to the public.

Also, in terms of emergency preparedness - we won't have four days to coordinate all of our antennas.

Our Field Day Coordinator, Mike, has already done a great job planning this and adapting to what's been thrown at us. He already arranged a call with several members of the board this morning to make a decision and figure out a plan for this weekend.

I personally am looking forward to seeing how well our club can adapt!

—Katherine Forson KT5KMF

I'll be on-call this weekend, so I'll miss field day... but a thought occurred while reading the thread...

Have we considered having a presence in both parks? Even if some folks are walking around the Russel park asking folks if they're ready for aliens landing, and maybe suggesting "ham radio when saucers land" might generate some interest??

—David Beck KE5DUO

About Antennas:

I sometimes use a painter's pole that collapses to around 9 feet and extends to around 25 feet to support an SBB-7 with radials.

It also can be reinforced (top section) with wooden dowels to support a dipole or other antenna.

—Larry Randall WA5BEN

For \$135 I got a 30-foot painters pole that collapses down under 5' making it very easy for me to push it up without needing a step stool.

<https://amzn.to/3SQVvfd>

They can be found cheaper with random "fake company" names, but the Extend-A-Reach pole I got, actually has a company with a website, and a support center behind it.

Then, I put the bottom guy attachment on the second stage lock, and I do push it up a bit, giving the bottom more stability than the 4' bottom section. So then I once again need something to stand on.

But I took all the support materials, stakes, lines, tools, etc, and put them in a rolling cooler, that makes it easy to transport, and also serves as my stepstool. I found some screw anchors that I tested this year with the strong winds and they performed surprisingly well, so I may even retire the metal stakes and the hammer.

<https://amzn.to/4eBYReG>

I realized that the entire mast is metal, and to avoid the mast or the radials being affected by the metal below it, especially since I was using a wire counterpoise for 6m, I added a few sections of wood dowel to the top of the painters pole, getting me to about 32'. I would have gone higher if it wasn't so windy.

<https://amzn.to/4eVQSBi>

Scot Boudwell—The HamStop guy—has an adapter for his military push up mast plates to work on Painters-pole threads.

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/4500057060/thecroft-painters-pole-adapter-us>

And then I used his SkyHook to hold 2 vertical antennas- one on 2m, and another on 6m.

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1813397695/theskyhookx2x6s-aluminum-military-mast>

This whole setup is much more lightweight and

portable than the push up flagpole I have used for decades, but which starts at about 6-feet meaning I need to bring a ladder, and it also only goes up 25 feet. But it is VERY durable- meant for near permanent outdoor deployment with two flags. Very durable means very heavy. But this mast supported the 4-element 6M quad I got from Tony and used for a couple Field Days.

<https://www.uncommonflagpoles.com/the-original-telescoping-flagpole-25-foot/>

The top segment I think is over an inch and I actually have another mast segment I put inside and pre-rigged that with the 2m loop, Antenna switch, rotor, and more for the past few years. When I add the 6M halo, 2m beam, and vertical, as well as the cabling for the switch, rotor, and antennas, it got VERY heavy indeed - and I wanted to simplify, and make it easier.

I daresay that if anyone wants to buy my flagpole, I can make you a good deal on a self-supporting 25' push up mast and it won't cost you their \$440 + tax + shipping. You can even dig a hole and drop the supplied PVC pipe in place (surrounded by cement) to use it "as needed" if your HOA decries anything "permanent"

—Anthony Burokas KB3DVS

We are working on providing a QR code for Field Day that will allow anyone to upload photos to a cloud account for the Klub. Hopefully this will provide us with a good number of photos while allowing us to review any content before posting on the website, etc.

That being said, and as we are hoping for a respectable [and respectful!] youth turnout, for most members taking photos with minors should NOT be a problem. Field Day does take place in a public setting. However, any member that works for or has a business that involves photography or video will be expected to have a photo release in hand, SIGNED BY THE MINOR'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, at the time of the photo or video. No exceptions.

And yes, this policy has been run by the PARK board.

—Rob Forson K5WFR

Public Relations Officer 📧

It's time for the Plano Amateur Radio Klub annual auction! This is open to anyone that is either looking to buy or sell ham radio related gear.

The auction will take place during PARK's regular monthly meeting, July 20th, at Plano's First United Methodist Church, 3160 E Spring Creek Parkway. A map is located on our website, k5prk.net.

This is your chance to clear out gear that you haven't used in a while or no longer has that special sparkle.

At the auction, there will be three different sets of tables where you can:

A. DONATE IT TO THE KLUB

The club auctions it and all proceeds benefit the club. Everything needs your name and/or call sign on it, because if no one bids, you take it home.

B. KEEP OWNERSHIP

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

C. GIVE IT AWAY

Free to any interested ham. A box of tubes, spool of wire, antenna pieces, radio interfaces, etc. These can be taken at any time so come early to get a shot at all the freebies. Everything needs your call sign on it, because if no one picks it up, you still take it home.

Because we have had so much gear in past years, we will be prioritizing which means not everything may be called up to auction.

Label ALL ITEMS with your name and/or call sign. If it doesn't sell or isn't taken, you take it back home with you.

Ham-related gear only please.

Let us know if you have a noteworthy item you are planning to bring to the auction so we can advertise it. That helps draw bidders.

Write out an index card for each of your items that you bring with some information about it, like what it does, how it is used, operational condition, if a transceiver has modifications, etc. This saves us time, provides more information to the bidders and can increase the winning price.

Anything not sold at the end of the auction is open to a person-to-person negotiation.

THE PROCESS

Everyone that expects to bid will sign a log and be assigned an index card with your bidder number. This will allow us to call out each winning bidder and help us keep track of each item sold.

Every item will have a card with the item's model number, description, modifications, etc.

The Auctioneer will use these item cards for specifics about the item while it is being auctioned.

When a sale is closed, the Auctioneer or his assistant will write the winning bidder's number and price on the item card.

The auctioneer's assistant will take the item card to the Klub Treasurer's table where he will be taking payments.

When an item is sold, it will be moved to the SOLD ITEMS table.

Bidders will be able to bid on multiple items and make a single payment at the end of the auction.


Payments can be made either with cash or by Square. No checks, please.

When an item is paid for, the Treasurer will stamp the Item Card as SOLD.

A stamped Item Card or Cards MUST be presented to the Sold Table Attendant to pick up an item or items.

And remember, the first rule of the PARK Auction is: if an item is not sold, traded or given away, YOU MUST TAKE IT HOME.

We hope to see you, and your FANTASTIC GEAR, at the PARK auction!

Rob Forson
K5WFR
Public Relations Officer
Plano Amateur Radio Klub. 



**Plano Amateur Radio Klub
Board of Directors Meeting**
July 6, 2026

Present:

Mike Tharp KG5TJF, President
Damon Koch K5OCH, Secretary
B. J. Watkins K5BJW, Treasurer
Rob Forson K5WFR, Public Relations
Director
Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP,
Communications Director
Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ, Newsletter
Editor
Katherine Forson KT5KMF Activities
Director
Tim Johnson K5TCJ, Immediate Past
President
Ian Duncan AE5ID
Connor Farrell WG1GEM

Absent:

Bruce Cameron K6IL, Vice President
James McCormick KG5KBP,
Webmaster

President

Brought meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Vice President

Updated program schedule:

- July—Club auction
- August—Air Force MARS
- September—Ed Fong and a new tri-band antenna design
- October—*open (officer elections)*
- November—*open*
- December—club Christmas party
- Gathering interest for a presentation on D-Star.

Secretary

June club meeting minutes posted to the board and submitted to the newsletter.

Archive purge on the board groups.io is awful because bulk deletion doesn't seem to be available. Rob is going to look at it.

Treasurer

Treasurer report presented.
Field Day expenses will be under budget.

Public Relations

Auction email has gone out.
Meeting space update: The plano senior center will rent a classroom for \$10 but they close at 8PM.

Rob wants to do some website cleanup to purge out-of-date pages. He will send a list to the board prior to any updates.

If you have things for the auction and you know ahead of time, please send your list to Rob so he can add it to the next email promoting the auction.

Communications

The repeater rebuild went faster than expected, and the cleanup freed up 10U rack space.

We now have one primary Raspberry Pi and the others are still in place for backups.

The repeaters are linking/unlinking properly.

Changed the switch to support POE. ARES Echolink/All Star link looping problem is identified. Miranda and Ian are reaching out to the user to remediate the problem.

Winlink is now on the new JetKVM and isolated industrial PC. The old laptop is still there for local management.

We need to send an approval request to Richardson on club letterhead to add us to their microwave link.

Miranda submitted receipts for repeater hardware. B.J. will have a

check for Miranda at the club meeting.

The TK790H Kenwood replacement needs a value attached so we can reimburse Miranda for it. We will discuss in next month's meeting.

Activities

Two events coming up in July:
Foxhunt this Saturday at Russel Creek pavilion at 9:00 AM
Park in the Park at Hoblitzelle park Saturday, July 25th at 9:00 AM

There are issues with Discord. We have an ID requirement that you must use your first/last/Call sign. We will make allowances for minors, but club members need their callsign. Since the Discord standard is First name/Call sign, we can modify the acceptable use policy to allow for this but only after a person is verified.

We will examine our social media footprint and acceptable use policy with the goal of amending the platform specific guidelines.

Website

Rob is going to make some page updates and will reach out to James to coordinate.

Newsletter

Please submit your ideas, pictures, and articles to the newsletter.

Any Field Day pictures? Be sure to send them for the newsletter.

Old Business

Items needed for the club auction. Any Square fees for purchases made at the auction will be absorbed by the club unless the person wants to voluntarily cover it.

New Business

None.

Adjourn

Motioned by Lonnie, second by Tim.
Adjourned at 8:02 PM 📺

PARK GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



June 15, 2026 General Meeting Minutes

Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.

President Mike Tharp KG5TJF
Opened the business meeting with roll call.
23 present, 21 members 2 guests.

Vice President Bruce Cameron K6IL - absent
June - Mike Tharp - Field Day
July - PARK Auction
August - Bruce Cameron - Air Force Mars
September - Edison Fong - Triband Antenna Design
October - K5PRK Discord Group Explained - Katherine Forson
November - Nano VNA Antenna Tuning - Ian Duncan
December - Christmas Party
If you would like to present, please email me at VP@k5prk.net

Secretary Damon Koch K5OCH
June board minutes are posted.
Club membership update: 85 members.

Treasurer B. J. Watkins K5BJW
Finance report presented.
B. J. purchased 11 handheld radios for the club to sell at the auction or give away at the Christmas party. \$187. Tim motion, Larry second to reimburse B. J. for the radios.

Passed by unanimous vote.

Communications Director Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP—absent

All Star and Echolink are problematic. Miranda is still chasing down the issues.

Newsletter Editor Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ

Please submit your ideas, pictures, and articles to the newsletter.

Beta testers needed for ham.live. Please see Lonnie for the QR code to login and test.

Public Relations Director Rob Forson K5WFR

Show up for Field Day and wear your name badge!

Webmaster James McCormick KG5KBP

We are in the process of moving to a new web host. It won't happen until after Field Day so all current links will work.

Activities Director Katherine Forson KT5KMF

The club is now live on Discord and Instagram. Please scan the QR codes for links.

The balloon launch party was successful and we were able to communicate and track the balloon payloads. There will be another launch during Field Day.

Watch your groups.io mail for a poll gauging interest in different club activities.

Local activities list is printed in the newsletter.

VE Coordinator Daryl Morgeson AF5QJ

No successful tests tonight.

Old Business

None

New Business:

Katherine Forson KT5KMF is nominated to be the Activities Director. Passed by unanimous vote. Thank you Katherine!

Join the club Discord group. It's a fast way to communicate club topics.

We are looking at alternate locations for club meetings. The board will continue to look for other meeting locations.

Break

50/50 Raffle
\$12 Won by Tim K5TCJ.

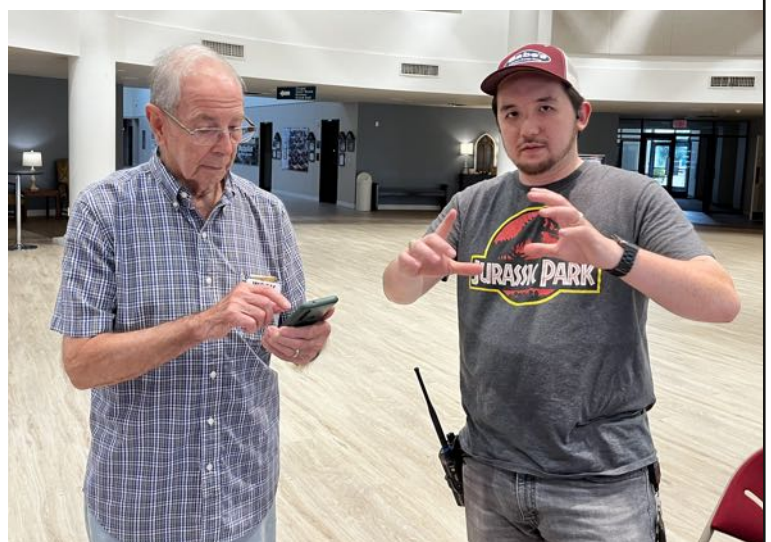
Program

Field Day 2026 - Mike Tharp KG5TJF.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Johnnie second by Miranda Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM. 📺

ACTION PHOTOS FROM THE KLUB'S LAST MEETING



MONDAY
JULY 20TH 2026
7PM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PLANO

You are invited to the

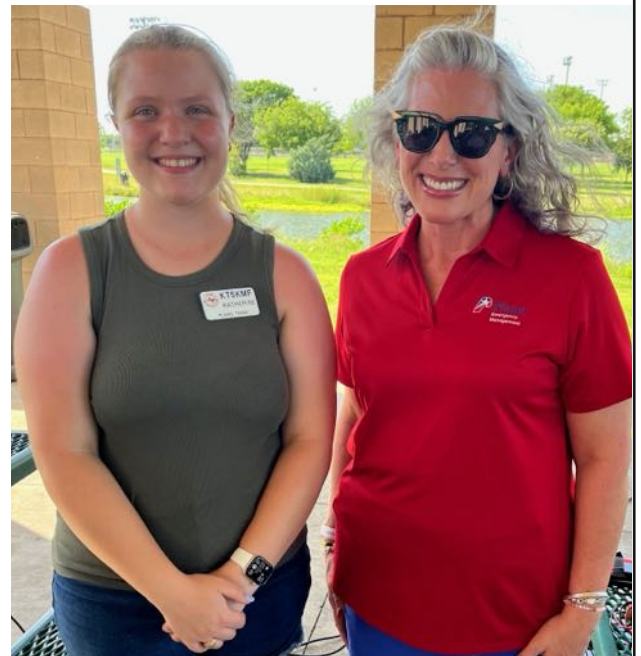
K5PRK
ANNUAL
HAM RADIO
EQUIPMENT
AUCTION



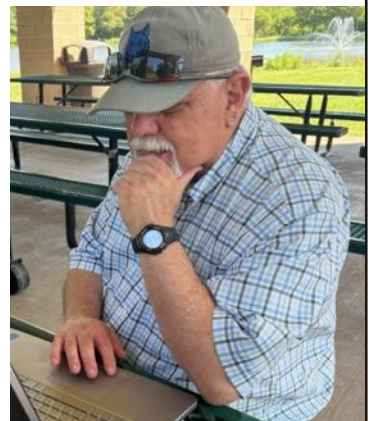
DFW

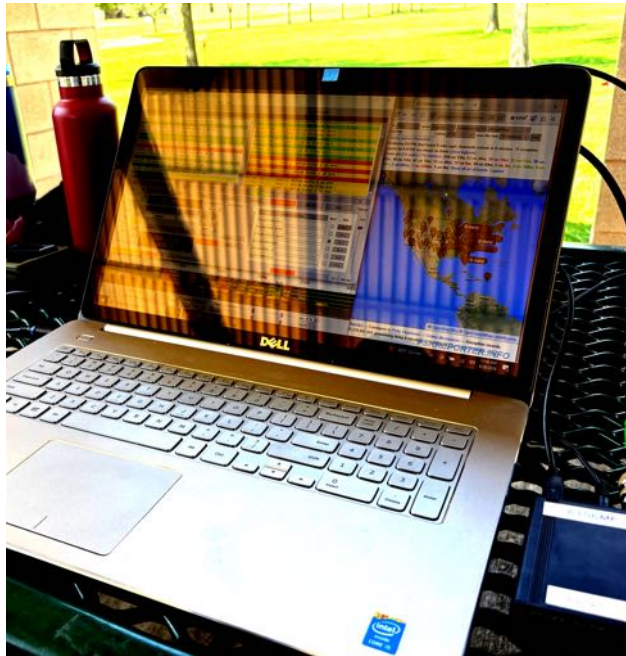
HAM EXPO





FIELD DAY





JOIN THE ARRL

American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the leading organization for radio enthusiasts across the United States. The ARRL invites you to join a vibrant community of innovators, communicators, and explorers who connect the world through the airwaves. Whether you're passionate about emergency communications, cutting-edge technology, or simply connecting with fellow hams across the globe, the ARRL offers unparalleled resources, training, and opportunities to fuel your curiosity.

By becoming a member, you'll gain access to exclusive publications like QST, hands-on support for licensing and operating, and a network of over 150,000 members who share your passion.

ARRL has an active lobby in government and aggressively acts for our benefit sharing our voices in Congress.

Additionally, the the ARRL equipment insurance program is quite superior. Investigate it and store your receipts away in accordance with their requirements. When lightning strikes you will want them.

Join the ARRL today and amplify your voice in a timeless hobby that bridges distances, builds skills, and creates lifelong friendships—your adventure in amateur radio starts here! 📻

Fox Hunting Event

By Ian Duncan AE5ID

Have you heard people talking about foxhunting but never tried it yourself?

Join the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (K5PRK) for a hands-on introduction to radio direction finding. We'll start with a short demonstration with a practice fox so everyone can learn the basics of locating a hidden transmitter. Then we'll put those skills to use hunting down two hidden foxes.

No foxhunting experience is required, and newcomers are encouraged to participate. Bring an HT if you have one, but we'll also have equipment available for newcomers.

Date: July 11, 2026

Time: 09:00 CDT (14:00 UTC)

Location: Russell Creek Park 📻

**Next Meeting:
July 20, 2026
7pm**