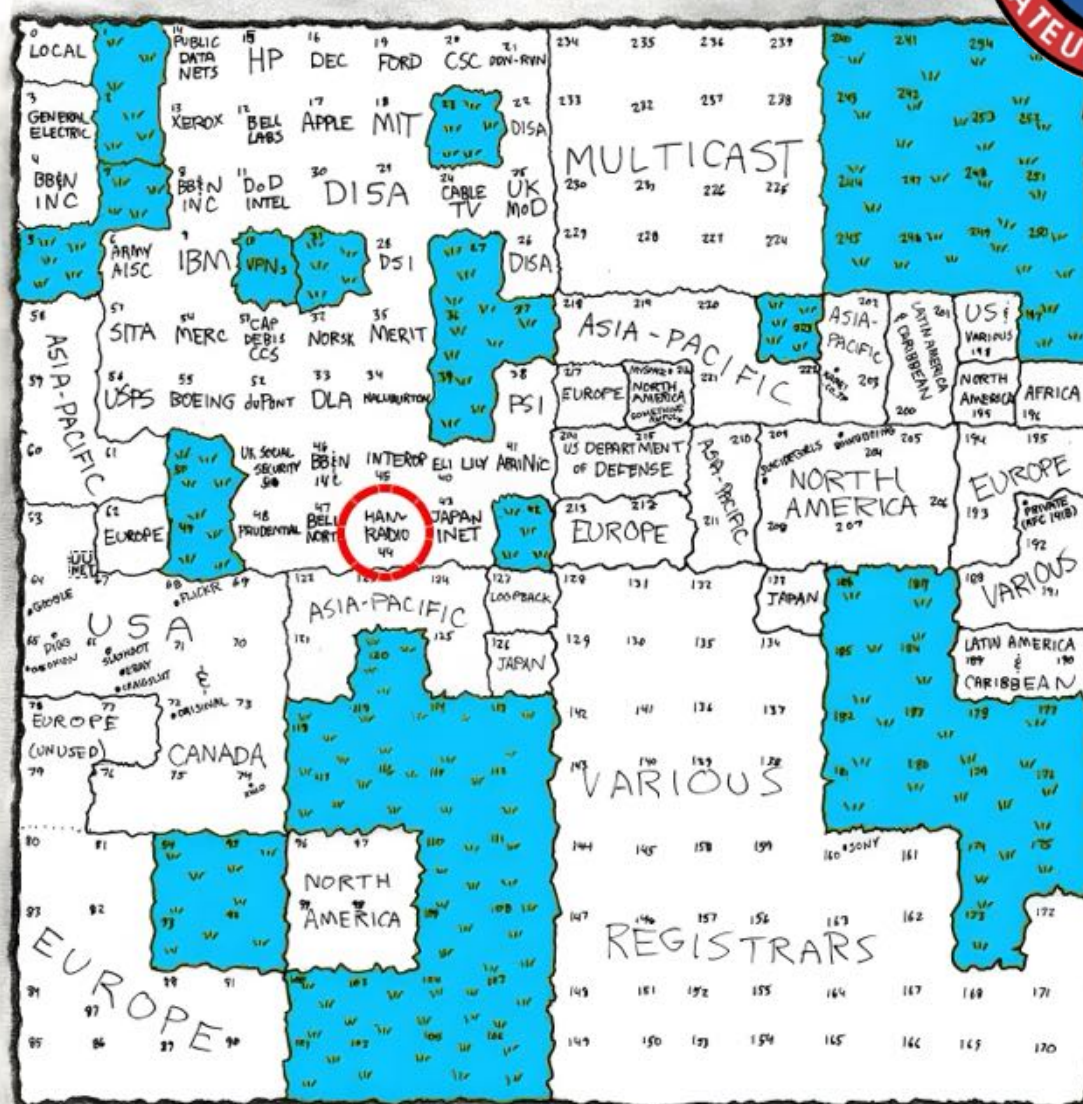


2026



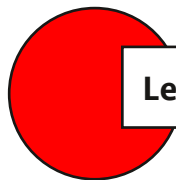
PARK HERE

Officers

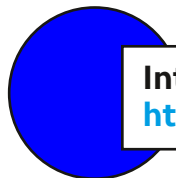
(your answers begin here)

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
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Webmaster	James McCormick KG5KBP	webmaster@k5prk.net
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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>

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.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Plano Amateur Radio Klub and Field Day

By Mike Tharp KG5TJF
president@k5prk.net

Hello All!

We'll start with the Field Day results—despite the impediments, we gathered 980 points for our work at Russell Creek. That doesn't include any points from at-home operators. So, even with the unexpected restrictions on our equipment and hours of operation, we still had a pretty good 24 hours!

Next, **Katherine Forson** has been contacted by the City of Plano to continue discussions on how PARK can assist the city. I'll let her explain the substance. This could be a very exciting opportunity for our club. If we do end up with a working relationship, we will be asking for your participation!

I don't want to steal any of **BJ's** thunder, even so—we had a very successful auction. Great appreciation to **Tim, Bruce, Katherine, Rob, Damon** AND **BJ!** This auction went very well and everyone's participation made this the most smoothly run auction yet.

Please keep reading the

newsletter for Katherine's updates. We could be on the cusp of a very exciting time at PARK! 📡

VICE PRESIDENT

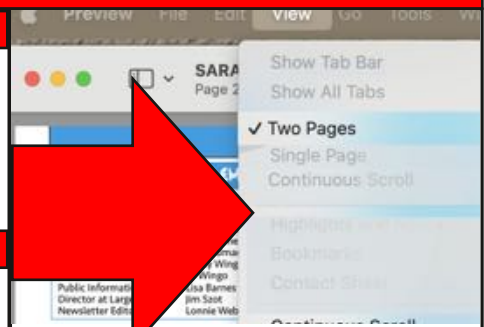
MARS Update

By Bruce W. Cameron K6IL
vp@k5prk.net

After months of training, I completed the requirements necessary to be a member of Air Force MARS. During my presentation, I'll explain what criteria are needed to be an eligible MARS operator.

The Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (AF MARS) is a Department of Defense-sponsored civilian auxiliary program that provides contingency, backup, and emergency High Frequency (HF) radio communications for the United States Air Force, Department of Defense (DoD), and civil authorities. Operating on specialized military radio frequencies outside standard amateur radio bands, AF MARS relies on a network of dedicated, licensed amateur radio volunteers who contribute their technical expertise, personal radio stations, and time to national defense and public service. Its core purpose is maintaining resilient, alternative communications capabilities that function independently of commercial telephone networks, satellite links, or internet infrastructure during natural disasters, cyber threats, or military conflicts.

Come see my presentation at



our monthly meeting this month. I'll have a presentation and samples of calls made from aircraft to MARS operators! 📡

On the cover:

XKCD Map Of The Internet. xkcd is copyrighted. The webcomic is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 2.5 License (CC BY-NC 2.5), which asserts the creator's copyright while granting the public specific permissions. <https://xkcd.com>

VE Testing:
August 17, 2026 at 6p

Next Meeting:
August 17, 2026 at 7p

UPDATES

ACTIVITIES

By Katherine Forson KT5KMF
activities@k5prk.net

Howdy everyone!

I won't go into too much detail just yet, but we have some exciting things in the works! I'm currently in the process of setting up a meeting with Plano Emergency Management in the next few weeks to discuss some opportunities for collaboration in the future. I will send something out once I have more concrete information.

In addition, keep an eye out for upcoming event announcements. Ian and I are working on some ideas for remote/on-the-air only events so we can stay connected while also staying cool! 📶

PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Rob Forson K5WFR
pr@k5prk.net

Greetings!

We are about two months away from the 2026 Plano Balloon Festival. It's time to get the date on your and your group's event calendars.

Dates: September 17 (Thursday PM) through September 20 (Sunday AM)

This year's schedule is identical to 2025. Thursday concert and glow, Friday/Saturday night glow, Saturday/Sunday AM launch. All weather dependent.

The volunteer signup is now open. Field operation volunteer roles are capped (16 operators). Recovery ops are not and flight operations are extremely weather dependent.

Minors may and are encouraged to sign up and must be shadowed with their parent/guardian. Please complete the Minor Waiver form.

Hands on Training - There will be a hands on training at the event site. This is highly encouraged to attend. Especially if this is your first time or have never attended the training before. As we are a part of the safety net for the field operations, we need to recognize and respond in a correct manner to those events/concerns. If you find yourself embracing the operations of crewing a balloon, they are actively seeking volunteers for that role as well.

Sunrise (6:30 am)—Tentative
Saturday—August 22

Saturday—August 29 (Rain Date)

In-person question and answer session—Typically held at the Plano ARK meeting in September (Third Monday). Watch for scheduling announcement as this puts it post-event.

We ask you do four things when signing up:

1. Complete the sign up form and follow formatting as request.
2. Complete the volunteer liability waiver. It is an agreement that both parties are looking out for each other's health and welfare interests.
3. Have joined the PBF group for communications.
4. Look over the website for logistics and safety information.

The files and document section contains data for 2025 as placeholders.

Volunteering Overview—[https://](https://sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/volunteering)

sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/volunteering

What I Need to Know - [https://](https://sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/resources)

sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/resources

We look forward to seeing you. Spread the word.



COMMUNICATIONS

By Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP
communications@k5prk.net

Hello! Here's the summary so far since the repeater came online on July 4th which was three weeks ago.

- UHF still doesn't get a copy of VHF audio.
- There were audio loops from allstar and issuing *1<id> didn't cause the link to drop.
- The announcement voices we had still aren't implemented
- Broadcastify still isn't configured which interested parties out of range listen to.
- We likely don't have an ARES mode setup yet with the page tones that ARES has requested for paging triggers.

The repeater still needs to get back to baseline before we add more things, when baseline happens then we should add weather alerts, I don't know why they were removed as they are present in previous configs of the system. 📶

Getting on 44Net

WireGuard and Opening Ports on Mac or Linux (For Regular Folks, Not Computer Nerds)

A step-by-step guide for hams who want to run a remote rig or a web server over their AMPRNet-style tunnel from the shack.

By KG5WHQ

Note: This information is provided for educational use only. If you use it, it comes with no warranty. In fact, I can say with certainty, you will get instantly hammered by hacker bots if you follow these instructions.

You are not protected on the internet. Stay off. Go home.

Everyone else, read twice before you do anything.

If you've got (or want to get) a 44.x.x.x address—that's the amateur radio internet block, also called 44Net or AMPRNet—this guide will walk you through the whole process: signing up, connecting with WireGuard, and opening some ports so other people can reach your station's web page or file server.

This guide covers both Mac and Linux, so skip to whichever section matches your computer. Don't worry—you don't need to be a computer expert. Just follow along one step at a time, and copy the commands exactly as shown.

Do not attempt from a Windows computer!

What You'll Need

- A current amateur radio license (any class).
- A Mac 🍏 or a Linux computer 🐧.
- About 45 minutes and a cup of coffee.

Part 1: Getting Your 44Net Address

Before any of the technical stuff, you need two things: a copy of your amateur radio license, and a 44Net account. Here's how to get both.

Step A: Get an official copy of your FCC license

44Net needs to confirm you're really a licensed ham, so you'll need a PDF of your license handy.

Go to the FCC's official license lookup page:
<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>

Log in with your FRN (FCC Registration Number) and password. If you don't remember your FRN or password, there's a "forgot password" link, or you can call the FCC Licensing Support Center at 877-480-3201 (Mon–Fri, 8am–6pm ET)—they're used to helping hams with this.

Once logged in, find your callsign under "My Authorizations." Select it and click ADD—this moves it into the "Authorizations to Download" list.

Click SELECT ALL, then click DOWNLOAD. Save the PDF somewhere you'll remember, like your Desktop or Documents folder.

This official copy will have the FCC logo and an "Official Copy" watermark—that's what makes it valid (as opposed to a plain "reference copy," which some sites offer but isn't the same thing).

Step B: Sign up for 44Net Connect

Go to <https://connect.44net.cloud/>

Click to create an account if you don't already have one. Follow the prompts to verify your callsign—this is where you'll upload the license PDF from Step A.

Once your callsign shows as verified, log back into the portal. In the left-hand menu, click My Resources, then Tunnels. Click to request a new tunnel. Pick a server location close to you (closer usually means a snappier connection—and a less crowded server is a bonus too).

Give your tunnel a name, and leave "Public Key" and "Preshared Key" blank unless you already know what those are.

Submit the request

Once approved, you'll be given a WireGuard configuration file (or the key details to build one) along with your very own 44.x.x.x address. Keep this info handy and treat it as a secret—you'll need it in the next part.

Part 2: Installing WireGuard

📁 On a Mac

There are two ways to do this. Pick whichever sounds easier to you.

Option A: The Easy Way (App Store)

Open the App Store on your Mac. Search for "WireGuard." Click Get to install the official app (made by "WireGuard Development Team").

This gives you a little icon in your menu bar where you can turn your tunnel on and off, like a light switch. You can import the config file 44Net gave you right into the app.

Option B: The Terminal Way (for the more adventurous)

If you're comfortable typing commands into the Terminal app (I prefer iTerm2), you can install it with a tool called Homebrew:

```
brew install wireguard-tools
```

Then to turn your tunnel on:

```
sudo wg-quick up wg0
```

And to turn it off:

```
sudo wg-quick down wg0
```

Tip: If you don't already have Homebrew, that's a separate install—ask a friend or search "install homebrew mac" for instructions.

📁 On Linux

Most Linux distributions can install WireGuard straight from their package manager. Open a terminal and use whichever command matches your distro:

```
# Debian / Ubuntu / Raspberry Pi OS
```

```
sudo apt update
```

```
sudo apt install wireguard
```

```
# Fedora
```

```
sudo dnf install wireguard-tools
```

```
# Arch
```

```
sudo pacman -S wireguard-tools
```

Once installed, save the config file 44Net gave you as /etc/wireguard/wg0.conf (you'll need sudo to create it there—`sudo nano /etc/wireguard/wg0.conf` works fine).

Then bring your tunnel up:

```
sudo wg-quick up wg0
```

And down:

```
sudo wg-quick down wg0
```

If you want the tunnel to reconnect automatically every time the computer boots (handy for a station computer that runs unattended):

```
sudo systemctl enable wg-quick@wg0
```

```
sudo systemctl start wg-quick@wg0
```

Part 3: Finding Your Tunnel's Name

Once WireGuard is running, your computer creates a **virtual interface**—think of it like an invisible network cable that only exists in software.

📁 On a Mac

Your tunnel interface usually has a name like `utun5` or `utun7`. To find it, open Terminal and type:

```
ifconfig
```

Look through the output for a section that shows your 44.x.x.x address, something like this:

```
utun7: flags=8051<UP, POINTOPOINT, RUNNING, MULTICAST> mtu 1380
inet 44.27.256.256 --> 44.27.256.256 net-
mask 0xfffff000
```

Write down that interface name (in this example, `utun7`) and your 44.x.x.x address. You'll need both in the next step.

A quick word of caution: don't confuse this with `en0`, which is your Mac's real network connection (Wi-Fi or Ethernet cable). Your 44.x.x.x address lives on the tunnel interface, not `en0`.

📁 On Linux

Your tunnel interface is almost always just called `wg0` (that matches the config file name from Part 2). To confirm and see your 44.x.x.x address, type:

```
ip addr show wg0
```

You'll see something like:

```
4: wg0: <POINTOPOINT,NOARP,UP,LOWER_UP>
mtu 1420
inet 44.27.256.256/32 scope global wg0
```

Write down your 44.x.x.x address. On Linux, the interface name is easy—it's wg0—so there's no mix-up like there can be on a Mac.

Part 4: Opening Your Ports

📁 On a Mac

MacOS has a built-in firewall system called pf (short for "packet filter"). We're going to tell it to let certain traffic through to your 44.x.x.x address.

Step 1: Open the firewall configuration file

```
sudo nano /etc/pf.conf
```

(You'll be asked for your Mac password—that's normal.)

Step 2: Add your rules

Scroll to the very bottom of the file using your arrow keys, and add these lines—but replace utun7 and 44.x.x.x with your own interface name and address from Part 3:

```
pass in on utun7 proto tcp from any to
44.x.x.x port { 80, 8080, 443, 21 } keep
state
```

This one line opens four ports at once:

Port	What it's typically used for
80	Regular web pages (HTTP)
443	Secure web pages (HTTPS)
8080	Alternate web server port
21	FTP (file transfers)

Warning! A friendly warning about port 21 (FTP): it's an old, unencrypted way of sending files—anyone snooping on the connection could see what's being transferred. If you're just sharing files with fellow hams and it's not sensitive info, it's fine. If you want something more secure, ask around about SFTP instead.

Step 3: Save and exit

Press Control + O then Enter to save

Press Control + X to exit

Step 4: Load the new rules

```
sudo pfctl -f /etc/pf.conf
```

Step 5: Double-check it worked

```
sudo pfctl -sr
```

You should see your four rules listed, one per port, looking something like this:

```
pass in on utun7 inet proto tcp from any to
44.27.256.256 port = 80 flags S/SA keep state
pass in on utun7 inet proto tcp from any to
44.27.256.256 port = 443 flags S/SA keep state
```

If you see that—congratulations, your Mac is now allowing that traffic through!

Important: These rules disappear if you restart your Mac. That's a bit beyond this article, but if it becomes a headache, ask us in the newsletter and we'll cover how to make it permanent.

📁 On Linux

Most Linux setups these days use one of two tools: ufw (simpler, common on Ubuntu/Debian) or nftables (more powerful, common on Fedora/newer distros). Use whichever one is already on your system—if you're not sure, try the ufw commands first; if you get a "command not found," use the nftables steps instead.

Option A: Using ufw (easier)

```
sudo ufw allow in on wg0 to 44.x.x.x port
80 proto tcp
sudo ufw allow in on wg0 to 44.x.x.x port
8080 proto tcp
sudo ufw allow in on wg0 to 44.x.x.x port
443 proto tcp
sudo ufw allow in on wg0 to 44.x.x.x port
21 proto tcp
```

Replace 44.x.x.x with your own 44.x.x.x address from Part 3. Then make sure ufw is actually turned on:

```
sudo ufw enable
```

Check that your rules loaded:

```
sudo ufw status verbose
```

Option B: Using nftables

First, check if you already have a ruleset file:

```
sudo nano /etc/nftables.conf
```

Add these lines inside your input chain (or near the bottom of the file if you're not sure where the chain is):

```
tcp dport { 80, 8080, 443, 21 } iifname
"wg0" ip daddr 44.27.134.30 accept
Save (Control + O, Enter) and exit (Control + X),
then reload:
sudo systemctl restart nftables
Check that it loaded:
sudo nft list ruleset
```

Tip: On Linux, firewall rules set up this way generally do survive a reboot (unlike the Mac's pf.conf), since ufw and nftables are designed to reload automatically as system services.

Part 5: Don't Forget the Other End!

Here's the part folks often miss: your computer's firewall is only half the story.

Since your 44.x.x.x address comes through a tunnel to a remote server (usually run by ARDC/44Net, or a VPS if you set up your own), that server also needs to:

- Allow those same ports through its own firewall. If it's a Linux server (most are), this usually means a tool called ufw, and the commands look like:

```
sudo ufw allow 80/tcp
sudo ufw allow 443/tcp
sudo ufw allow 8080/tcp
sudo ufw allow 21/tcp
```

- Forward that traffic through the tunnel to your computer. This part depends on how your particular tunnel provider is configured—if you're not sure, ask whoever set up your tunnel access, or check with the newsletter crew.

Think of it like a relay: the remote server is the first checkpoint, and your computer is the second. Both gates need to be open for traffic to get all the way through to you.

Part 6: Testing From the Outside

Once both sides are set up, don't test from your home Wi-Fi—test from outside your network, since your own router might let things through that a stranger's connection wouldn't. Good options:

- Use your phone on cellular data (turn off Wi-Fi first!)
- Ask a friend in another town to try it

- Use a free website checker like canyouseeme.org
- From a Mac or Linux computer elsewhere, you can also type:

```
nc -zv 44.27.137.90 80
```

If it says "succeeded" or "connected," you're in business!

Part 7: Actually Serving Something (a Simple Web Page)

Pay really close attention. Anything you serve on the real internet is viewable by anybody. And by now the bots are already pounding your new IP address!

If you just want to test that a web page loads, Python (which comes built into every Mac, and almost every Linux system) has a tiny web server ready to go.

Put an index.html file (or any web page) into a folder, say ~/Sites

In Terminal, navigate there:

```
cd ~/Sites
```

Start the server:

```
python3 -m http.server 8080
```

That's it! Anyone who can reach 44.x.x.x:8080 (once your firewall rules and tunnel forwarding are set up) will see the files in that folder.

To stop the server, click back into that Terminal window and press Control + C.

Conclusion

Also take a look at this month's review of the Rules for Using 44Net. The red letters are important.

Questions, corrections, or "it didn't work for me" stories? Bring them to the next meeting—we're all learning this together. 📡

The Rules for Using 44Net

Here's a rundown of the rules governing 44Net (also called AMPRNet—Amateur Packet Radio Network), the block of IP address space set aside for amateur radio digital communications. Yes, this was gleaned from the internet.

What it is

44Net is the IP space historically drawn from 44.0.0.0/8, allocated to amateur radio in 1981. After a quarter of the block (44.192.0.0/10) was sold off in 2019, the remaining space is 44.0.0.0/9 for US subnets and 44.128.0.0/10 for the rest of the world. It's managed by ARDC (Amateur Radio Digital Communications), a nonprofit, and is used for scientific research and experimentation with digital communications over radio.

Who can use it

44Net is maintained as a community service for non-commercial projects and generally requires an amateur radio operating license, with community norms following amateur radio traditions. To get verified access, you need to provide proof of a valid amateur radio license that specifically authorizes operating an amateur station—a license for equipment ownership or listening only isn't sufficient. A verified license alone gets you access to much of what 44Net offers; if you also verify your location, you can request up to 254 IPs, a /24 subnet, BGP authorization, and more.

Core usage restrictions

ARDC's *Terms of Service for 44Net* explicitly state that addresses are not permitted to be used for commercial purposes, nor in a manner detrimental to the AMPRNet or to Amateur Radio. Addresses are licensed to individuals rather than sold or permanently transferred, and remain ARDC's property so they aren't monetized or misused. Restrictions on encryption and commercial traffic that apply under amateur radio regulations in various jurisdictions also have to be respected by everyone using the network.

Purpose

The purpose of AMPRNet is to permit experimentation by amateurs in digital networking and to provide computer services to other amateurs using AMPRNet. There's no cost for using AMPRNet facilities themselves, though you may have costs for internet access to reach it or for amateur radio equipment.

How to get on it

You register a sub-domain under AMPR.ORG via the Portal — an IP address needs to be associated with an AMPR.ORG domain name for the main gateway to route packets to it.

There's also 44Net Connect, a newer self-service WireGuard-based system for getting a public 44Net IP without needing your own project or subnet first.

Community coordination happens through the Wiki (wiki.ampr.org), the Portal (portal.ampr.org), and mailing lists/Groups.io.

See this month's detailed explanation of the process for setting up a tunnel into 44Net.

A technical caveat

Because ARIN doesn't provide RPKI or IRR services for legacy resources outside an ARIN agreement, 44Net currently can't create ARIN-issued ROAs for those resources — worth knowing if you're doing anything with routing security.

There's also a draft IETF proposal (as of late 2025/2026) to reserve an IPv6 block (44::/16) as a successor space, governed by the same non-commercial policies — but that's still a proposal, not yet in effect.

If you're looking to actually get set up on it, the ARDC wiki (wiki.ampr.org) and portal (portal.ampr.org) are the authoritative, current sources — worth checking directly since ARDC updates its verification and provisioning process periodically.





**Plano Amateur Radio Klub
Board of Directors Meeting
August 3, 2026**

Present:

Mike Tharp KG5TJF, President
Bruce Cameron K6IL, Vice President
Damon Koch K5OCH, Secretary
Rob Forson K5WFR, Public Relations Director
Katherine Forson KT5KMF Activities Director
Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ, Newsletter Editor
Miranda Schwarck KE5YZP, Communications Director
James McCormick KG5KBP, Webmaster
Tim Johnson K5TCJ, Immediate Past President
Ian Duncan AE5ID

Absent:

B. J. Watkins K5BJW, Treasurer

President

Brought meeting to order at 7:06 PM
Mike will start working on the MOUs for Richardson and MCP/Metrocrest.

Vice President

Updated program schedule:
August—Air Force MARS
September—Ed Fong and a

new tri-band antenna design
October—K5PRK Discord Group Explained, Katherine Forson

November—Nano VNA Antenna Tuning, Ian Duncan

December—club Christmas party

Secretary

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

86 members as of 8/1

Treasurer

Treasurer report presented via email.

Public Relations

Rob has been working on groups.io storage. We are at the storage limits and we have no bulk delete ability. Admins can download zip files of messages and photo attachments and put the zip files on a google drive and local storage. Rob will continue to clean up the archives.

Communications

Richardson wants assurance that any non-amateur radio equipment won't use the microwave link before they'll connect with the Prestige tower. Mike will talk with Andrew Koenig from the Richardson club to see what they want in a letter to approve the 5GHz microwave link. The separation must be complete so only club equipment uses the link. Regarding the hardware at MCP, there is possible conflict if non-amateur hardware shares with the club. Currently, the Metrocrest radios are connected to a non-amateur antenna from one of Miranda's projects. The only PARK hardware is a duplexer, 72U rack, and router.

There's a new alternative to

DSL at the water tower. An LTE card would be a backup for microwave and let us cancel DSL and save money.

Email to All Star needs to be updated to go to k5prk email. Miranda and Ian will work on it.

Activities

Katherine is meeting with the Plano city EOC management next week and will discuss a partnership between the club and EOC. The EOC is at Parker and Coit.

PARK in the Park cancelled due to heat advisory.

Kicking around remote/OTA events like trivia nets.

Website

The PARK website has crashed twice in two months. James is digging into it.

Newsletter

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

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

Field Day

N/A

Past President

What does the Oak Point room cost? \$22. Motion to reimburse Rob for the cost of the room. Passed via unanimous vote.

Do we still want to pursue county-wide coverage for our repeaters? After all this time, we have no movement at all at MCP. We look at the EOC as our next step.

Old Business

Website migration—Dream

PARK GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Host no longer provides free hosting for 501c3 nonprofits. Since it's similar cost, we will stay with Digital Ocean and work on the site we already have.

Copyright issue—No further contact.

New Business

Richardson has expressed reservations about PARK using the microwave link for non-HAM traffic. Metrocrest has also stated that they want their repeaters back if MCP can't provide reliable service.. There is also a possible conflict of interest with commercial equipment collocating with club amateur equipment at MCP, We will also need to ensure that the club's equipment at the Prestige water tower is not connected to any non HAM radio equipment.

We have already deallocated



Join us for Forth Thursday Lunch at Poor Richard's Cafe.
Lunch starts at noon!

(pictured here: **George Martindale N5VVL, Johnnie Young KG5CQO, Larry Pollis KI5UXC, KG5WHQ, Ann Fiorda KJ5LWR, and Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI**)

the funding for the hospital site. We are considering giving MCP 90-day notice of commitment or we will pull our equipment, give Metrocrest back their repeaters, and terminate our presence at

the hospital.

Plano EOC is interested in building a relationship with the club. There are other potential locations other than MCP in the city for auxiliary communications. Katherine has an invitation to visit with the EOC next week.

Adjourn

Motioned by James, second by Tim. Adjourned at 8:06 PM8:02 PM



July 20, 2026 General Meeting Minutes

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m.

President Mike Tharp KG5TJF
Abbreviated the business meeting so we can use the time for the auction.
43 present

VE Coordinator Daryl Morgeson AF5QJ

No tests tonight.

Old Business

None

New Business:

Receipts submitted to reimburse the communications director \$720 for repeater hardware upgrades and replacements. Lonnie KG5WHQ motioned to reimburse Miranda, Tim K5TCJ second. Unanimous approval.

50/50 Raffle

No raffle tonight

Program

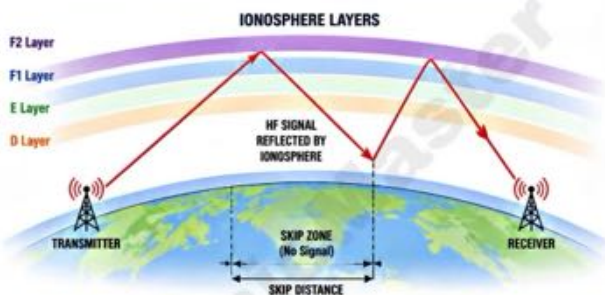
2026 PARK Auction

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

SKYWAVE PROPAGATION HF RADIO COMMUNICATION

Skywave propagation allows HF (3–30 MHz) radio signals to travel far beyond the horizon by reflecting from the Earth's ionosphere. It is the primary method used by amateur (ham) radio operators for long-distance worldwide communication without satellites or repeaters.



IONOSPHERE LAYERS	HOW IT WORKS	SKIP DISTANCE & ZONE	SIGNAL PERFORMANCE
F2 Highest layer Provides longest communication range F1 Active in daytime Supports medium range communication E Reflects lower frequencies Useful for shorter range communication D Lowest layer Absorbs HF signals, active in daytime	HOW IT WORKS HF signal is transmitted toward the ionosphere The signal reflects off the ionosphere and returns to Earth far beyond the horizon.	SKIP DISTANCE & ZONE The signal first returns to Earth at the skip distance. The area between the transmitter and the skip zone where no signal is received.	SIGNAL PERFORMANCE Performance depends on: Time of day Season Solar activity Operating frequency

WIDELY USED FOR



COAX REPAIR

Shoe Goo, Plasti Dip, Side Cutters, and a Box Knife

By KG5WHQ

Every ham has a version of this story: it's Saturday morning, the antenna's up, the bands are hot, and somewhere along the feedline run a coax jumper has a nick, a crush, or a full-on cut from last week's teardown. The electrical tape has survived 20(or 40)years and has decayed into a sticky tarball. The nearest hardware store is closed.

Let the swearing and speaking in tongues begin!

My situation was that I had flown to my brother-in-law's place hundreds of miles away to make contacts in North Carolina. Their sweet, perfect dog was in the chewing stage and carved through my coax cable! There I was, having traveled ~~millions~~ hundreds of miles, and now my QRP rig was unpacked and not a signal to send! What I had was a multi-tool, a box knife, half a tube of Shoe Goo, and a can of Plasti Dip left over from a tool-handle project.

That's enough to get a usable splice back in service. It won't be a connector-quality joint—more on that trade-off below—but it will pass a signal and shed water (very well) until you can do it properly. Water intrusion under the outer jacket is the ultimate enemy of radio. Here's the process, step by step.

Prepare

Let's pretend all your stuff is pristine and you have everything wrapped in self-amalgamative tape, lubed your connections with dielectric grease, and there are no bristles on your radials. All you have to do is prepare...right?

Go ahead and get a tube of 1. Shoe Goo from Walmart's vanishing shoe section(~\$7). Also at wally-world, get a can of 2. Plasti-Dip spray from the laughable automotive section(~\$14). I assume by now you have side-cutters and a knife you can avoid hurting yourself with. If not, get some bandaids, too.

That plastic Walmart bag—who are we kidding? You're a ham operator. That's your new go-bag

isn't it, you cheap devil!

What these Products Actually Do

It's worth being clear-eyed about roles here, because it's easy to assume the sealants are doing more than they are:

Side cutters and box knife—these do the actual repair work: cutting away the damaged cable and stripping the ends for splicing.

Shoe Goo—a flexible, waterproof adhesive/sealant. It does not conduct signal; it seals the mechanical splice against moisture. Cures like epoxy.

Plasti Dip—a rubberized coating, sprayed on after the Shoe Goo cures. Adds abrasion resistance and a second moisture barrier. Cures in 30 minutes.

None of these restore the electrical path by themselves. That happens in the splice itself—re-connecting the center conductor and the braided shield. Get that part right first.

I suggest a NASA splice or an aviation joint. This ought to do without solder, but you can make yourself feel good by doing a good solder job on it. If it's not good, don't even do it. No solder is better than a cold joint this time.

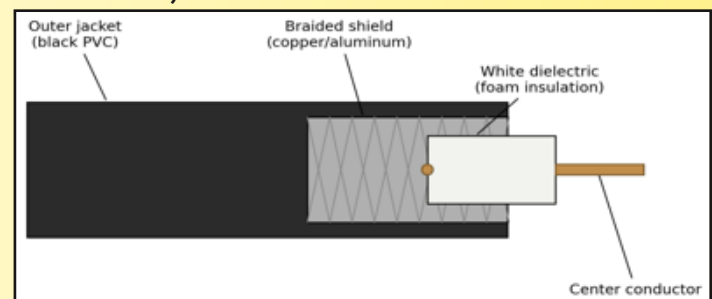


Fig. 1 — Coax cable anatomy: jacket, braided shield, dielectric, center conductor.

Step 1: Assess and cut back the damage

Inspect the cut. If both the center conductor and the shield are severed, you're doing a full splice (not just a jacket patch). Using the side cutters, snip out the entire damaged section—don't try to save a nicked or crushed area. Cut back to cable that looks fully intact on both sides: no cracks in

the jacket, no frayed shield, no exposed dielectric.

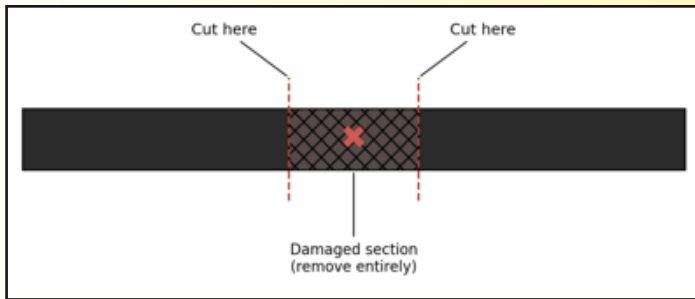


Fig. 2 — Remove the full damaged section, not just the cut point.

Step 2: Strip both ends

With the box knife, score around the jacket about 3/4" from each cut end—score lightly, don't plunge the blade in, since it's easy to nick the shield or dielectric underneath. Slide the jacket off. Fold the braided shield back over the jacket rather than trimming it away; you'll need it to rejoin the shield. Take good care of the foil or replace it with foil that you have in the kitchen. Then strip the white foam dielectric back to expose an inch of the center conductor.

Go slow on this step. A nicked center conductor is the single most common reason these splices fail early.

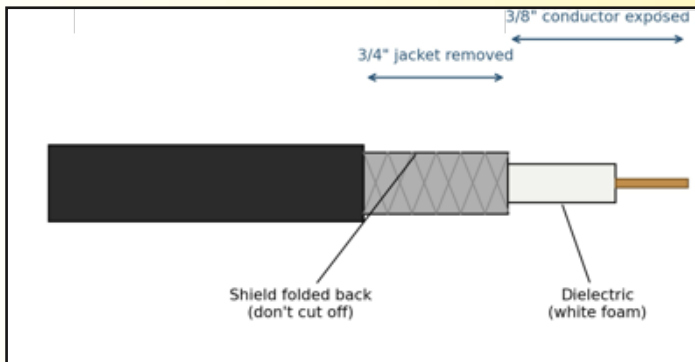


Fig. 3 — Strip dimensions: 3/4" of jacket, 3/8" of exposed conductor, shield folded back.

Step 3: Join the two ends

Bend the two center conductors so they fit like hooks. Wrap them tightly back on the center copper wire. Twist it firmly, forming a tight mechanical joint (solder it here if you have an iron handy—it's a meaningful upgrade in reliability, if you do it right). Wrap that joint completely in electrical tape to keep it insulated from the shield. Wrap that with any additional foil if you need to. Then fold the two sections' braid together around the outside of that insulated core and twist or press them into contact. Again, make it tight.

Wrap the whole assembly in another layer of electrical tape for mechanical strength before sealing.



Fig. 4 — Center conductors spliced with a mechanical joint.

Step 4: Seal the splice

This is where the Shoe Goo and Plasti Dip come in. Coat the entire taped splice generously with Shoe Goo, working it into every gap and past the edge of the cable jacket on both sides so there's no seam for water to find. Let it skin over and cure per the tube's instructions (typically a few hours to overnight, weather-dependent).

Once cured, spray on one or two even coats of Plasti Dip, again overlapping onto the intact jacket on both ends. This adds an abrasion-resistant, flexible outer shell on top of the Shoe Goo's waterproofing.

What to expect from this repair

Be realistic about your workmanship. If you have bristles in the jacket, you already have water intrusion. Keep monitoring your efficiency with a mind to when you need to replace it. Also, if you left knicked lengths of copper behind in the splice, you will introduce an impedance discontinuity that a proper compression connector doesn't—expect some added loss and a minor SWR bump at the splice point, more noticeable the higher you go in frequency.

For HF work, however, most operators won't notice it. For VHF/UHF or a long run, it's more likely to show up on the meter.

Treat this as a get-back-on-the-air repair, not a permanent one. You know your coax has a life. Replace it if needed with a proper F-connector-and-barrel splice (or better, a new jumper) when you're next near a parts supply.

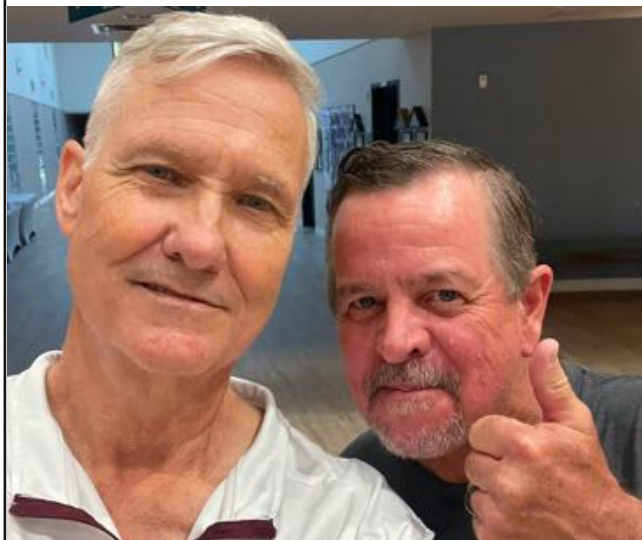
One application of Shoe Goo will do the job, but it wants to cure for 24 hours. Plasti Dip sets up in 30 minutes so you can put on three or more coats if the humidity or rain demands it.

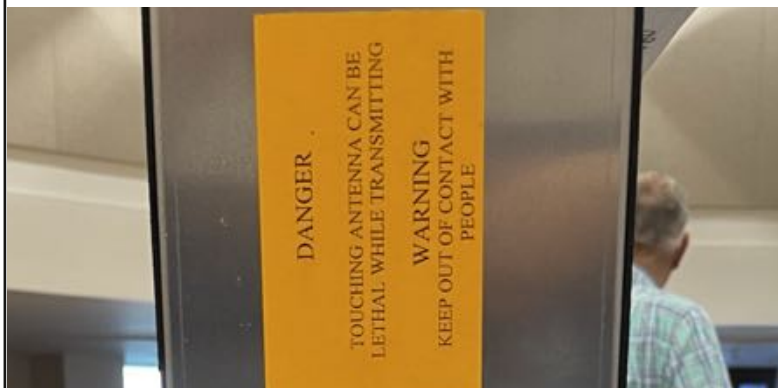
Don't forget the radial ends.

But what about radiation? Come on. Are you worried that your 20m vertical is going to start radiating at an inch of slice?

Dude, stop drinking the Happy Juice when you go POTA activating! 📻

ACTION PHOTOS FROM THE K5PRK AUCTION:







SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER HAMFEST

Home of the 2026 ARRL Delta Division Convention

Louisiana State Fairgrounds Agriculture Building

3206 Pershing Blvd
Shreveport, LA 71109

Friday, August 7, 2026 | 1 PM to 5 PM

Saturday, August 8, 2026 | 7 AM to 2 PM

\$15 Admission | Children 12 & under Free

FREE Parking — Easy Access

Come Join the Fun!

The Shreveport Amateur Radio Association (SARA) is pleased to sponsor the Shreveport-Bossier Hamfest. Rendezvous with old friends and make new ones. Browse the latest equipment from vendors. Sell your used gear or find the perfect new or used equipment for your rig.

- Air-conditioned, all indoors
- Major amateur radio equipment brands and commercial vendors
- License Exams
- Flea market
- Concessions, raffle, and hourly door prizes
- Join, renew, or extend your ARRL Membership — and make a donation to the ARRL Diamond Club. Receive a free signing gift.
- Forum: Healthy Clubs, Strong ARES® groups, Saturday, 10 AM to 11 AM, with ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV
- ARRL Membership Forum, Saturday, 11 AM – 12 PM
- Meet ARRL representatives: Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ; Vice Director John Mark Robertson, K5JMR; and Section Managers Houston Polson, N5YS (Louisiana), and many other ARRL Field Organization volunteers.

For the most up-to-date information, visit www.k5sar.com/sbhamfest



ARRL AT HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST

AUGUST 21 - 23, HOST OF THE 2026

ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Step 1: Register for Friday's ARRL National Convention Program

Step 2: Get your Huntsville Hamfest tickets (Sat & Sun)

Order Your Tickets Now

<https://www.arrl.org/expo>

Friday, August 21, 2026

ARRL National Convention Program (multiple venues in Huntsville). Register now for the all day training tracks and luncheon, and the ARRL National Convention Dinner. Register Now for the ARRL National Convention Program. Or see more details at www.arrl.org/expo.

- 8 AM to 4:30 PM ARRL Training Tracks with Luncheon | \$90. The workshops will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville. Choose from Mini Contest University, Emergency Communications Academy, or Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Workshop. Training Track registration includes the ARRL National Convention Luncheon. See an agenda for each Training Track.
- 6 PM ARRL National Convention Dinner | \$100. Join ARRL for this very special dinner under a full-size Saturn V rocket at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Access to the museum is included along with dinner and special speakers. Additional sponsorships are available. Includes dinner, museum, and a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the ARRL Education & Technology Program.

Saturday & Sunday, August 22 - 23, 2026

Huntsville Hamfest at the **Von Braun Center**, 700 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801. The Huntsville Hamfest is one of the nation's favorite hamfests -- supercharged as host of the ARRL National Convention! Thousands of ARRL Members, massive exhibit hall and indoor flea market under one roof, top manufacturers and resellers, ARRL exhibits and program representatives, clubs, forums, license exams, and prize drawings. Get your Huntsville Hamfest tickets now.



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! 📻

HAMCLOCK

Urgent Notice: Clear Sky Institute Backend Failure—Action Required

All HamClock Users Must Switch to the New OHB Backend Immediately!

The Clear Sky Institute backend server is currently failing, and all subscribers must migrate to the new OHB (Open HamClock Backend) to ensure continued updates, stability, and feature development.

Starting with HamClock V4.24, switching to OHB is simple. Once launched from OHB, HamClock will automatically remember the new backend and permanently configure itself to use OHB for all future updates.

To switch, run:

```
hamclock -b ohb.hamclock.app:80
```

This command forces HamClock to update from OHB and sets OHB as its new home server.

You can find step by step instructions at <https://www.n01sr.com> 📄

SCU-25 programming cable, which means being on Windows. If you are on Linux, macOS, or just do not want to buy a cable for a one-off channel

CH	NAME	MODE	POWER	SPEED	OFFSET	TONE	SQL	WIDEN	STEP	WID	WID	WID
1	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
2	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
3	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
4	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
5	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
6	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
7	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
8	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
9	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
10	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
11	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100
12	144.3000 144.300	FM	100	1200	0	1000	100	100	High	100	100	100

load, you are out of luck.

A new open source project from Beaty Consultancy, 5D Web Programmer, fixes that. It is a single self-contained HTML file that reads and writes the FT-5D's MEMORY.dat file directly from the microSD card, entirely in your browser. No Yaesu software, no drivers, no cable, no account, no upload. Your codeplug never leaves your machine.

<https://github.com/Beaty-Consultancy/5d-web-programmer> 📄

CODEPLUG

5D Web Programmer: A Free, In-Browser Codeplug Editor for the Yaesu FT-5D

The Yaesu FT-5D (and its UK/EU sibling the FT-5DE) is a capable tri-band C4FM digital handheld, but it has the same annoying programming story as every other modern Yaesu radio: bulk channel editing means using Yaesu's Windows-only ADMS-14 software, which means buying the proprietary

CODEPLUG

APRSdroid 9M2PJU Mod

The Enhanced APRS Companion for Android, Built by Hams, for Hams

You are parked on a forest road somewhere off the North-South Expressway, phone in one hand, a hand-held in the other, and a LoRa APRS tracker blinking on the dashboard. You want to beacon your position, see the rest of the net on a map, and exchange messages with a station 400 km away, all without burning through your data plan or relying on a Google Maps tile server that has no signal out here.



That is exactly the job APRSdroid 9M2PJU Mod was built for. It is a free, open source Android APRS client that turns your phone into a full Automatic Packet Reporting System station: position reporting, two-way messaging, digipeating, I-gating, and offline mapping, with no Google Maps dependency and no internet connection required for the map itself.

This is the 9M2PJU customised build of NA7Q's enhanced APRSdroid fork, itself built on Georg Lukas (DO1GL)'s original APRSdroid. The mod brings modern Android 15/16 compatibility, a Material Design dark navy + amber theme, an adaptive launcher icon, a branded splash screen, edge-to-edge inset fixes, a bottom navigation bar, real-time log updates, and a polished landing page at aprsdroid.hamradio.my with live download counters. 📱

\$2 AD-BLOCKER

More like \$10 on Amazon, but hey!

A small firmware for an ESP32-C3 board that turns it into a network-wide DNS ad-blocker. You point your devices (or your whole router) at it for DNS, and it answers 0.0.0.0 for any query in a 140,000+ domain blocklist and forwards everything else to your real upstream resolver. No per-device app, no browser extension, no subscription. One \$2 board, one flash, and every device on the Wi-Fi stops talking to ad and tracker servers.

<https://9m2pju.github.io/9M2PJU-ESP32-C3-AdBlocker> 📱

PLANO BALLOON FESTIVAL

We are about two months away from the 2026 Plano Balloon Festival. It's time to get the date on your and your group's event calendars.

Dates: September 17 (Thursday PM) through September 20 (Sunday AM)

This year's schedule is identical to 2025. Thursday concert and glow, Friday/Saturday night glow, Saturday/Sunday AM launch. All weather dependent.

The volunteer signup is now open. Field operation volunteer roles are capped (16 operators). Recovery ops are not and flight operations are extremely weather dependent.

Minors may and are encouraged to sign up and must be shadowed with their parent/guardian. Please complete the Minor Waiver form.

Hands on Training—There will be a hands on training at the event site. This is highly encouraged to attend. Especially if this is your first time or have never attended the training before. As we are a part of the safety net for the field operations, we need to recognize and respond in a correct manner to those events/concerns. If you find yourself embracing the operations of crewing a balloon, they are actively seeking volunteers for that role as well.

Sunrise (6:30 am) - Tentative

Saturday - August 22

Saturday - August 29 (Rain Date)

<https://sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/volunteering> 📱

SOFTWARE

HamStationHQ

AMATEUR RADIO & OFF-GRID COMMS

((P)) RADIO | ⚡ OFF-GRID | + PREPARED | ((P)) CONNECTED



LOGBOOK • SATELLITES • DX CLUSTER • SOLAR DATA • WEATHER • OFF-GRID TOOLS • AND MORE

Introducing HamStation

By Ken Kalous

ke5vxx@gmail.com

[Via Michael Payne K5MFP michaelpaynek5mfp@gmail.com]

I'm Ken Kalous, an amateur radio operator and IT Systems Engineer in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. After spending nearly two years building and refining this project, I'm opening it up to a larger group of operators for feedback before its wider release.

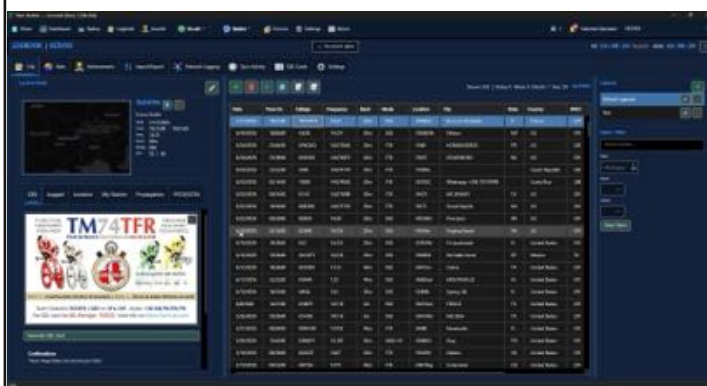
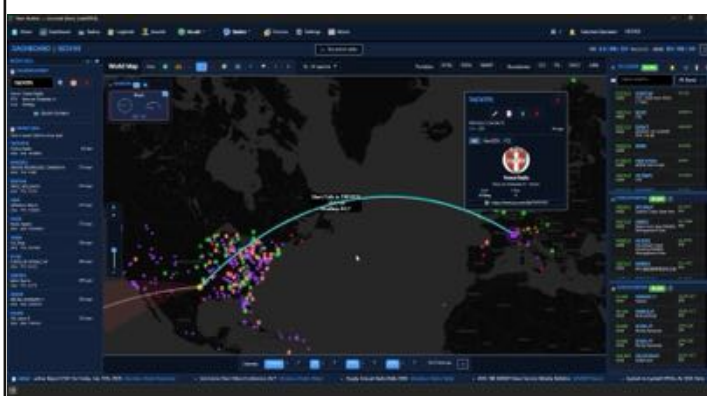
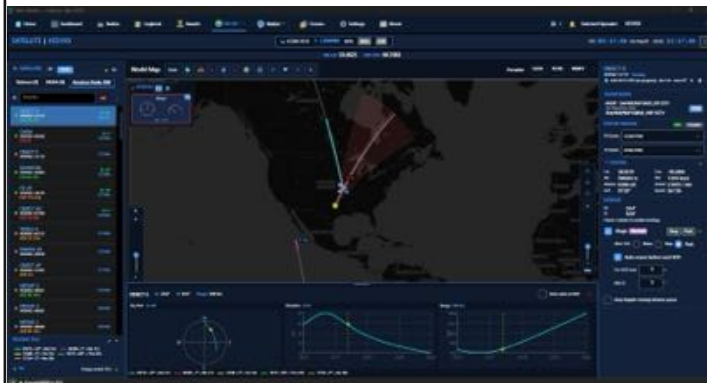
HamStation is designed to be an all-in-one operating platform rather than just another logging program. It combines logging, rig control, digital modes, mapping, propagation tools, emergency communications, equipment management, and many other capabilities into a single modern application. One of my original goals was simply to build a logging program with a great dark mode—but the project quickly grew into something much larger.

The software will always be free to use. A license removes the reminder screens and helps support continued development, but every feature remains available in the free version.

As a thank-you to the amateur radio community, I'm offering 200 free lifetime licenses to early users who are willing to try the software and provide feedback.

You can learn more, watch videos, and see screenshots here:

<https://hamstationhq.com>



HamStation Highlights

- Complete QSO logging with ADIF import/export and online logbook synchronization.
- Radio control for hundreds of transceivers through Hamlib.
- CW tools including decoding, training, WinKeyer support, and keying.
- Integrated DX Cluster, maps, spotting, and propagation information.
- APRS, Meshtastic, VARA, JS8Call, and WSJT-X integration.
- Satellite tracking and pass prediction.
- Award tracking, contest support, and operating statistics.
- Net control and event/calendar management.
- Emergency communications tools including ICS forms and mesh delivery.
- Equipment inventory, antenna, battery, and go-kit management.
- Multi-monitor support, light/dark themes, Windows, Linux, and macOS compatibility.

HamStation continues to grow, and many additional features are already in active development. My goal is to build a modern amateur radio platform that can serve as the primary operating application for everyday operators, contesters, portable operators, and emergency communicators alike.

I'd greatly appreciate any feedback, suggestions, or bug reports from those who decide to give it a try. Visit the forums, find the Alpha thread and request to join the Alpha testers group.

HamStationHQ.com 📡

KJ6LNG, SK John C Dvorak

From No Agenda News

Needless to say we are all devastated, but we look forward to honoring John's memory with you.

The Dvorak Family. 📺

July 22nd, 2026—For a man who spent decades famously predicting the catastrophic demise of almost every major technological innovation including the mouse, it is with the heaviest of hearts we must announce that famed writer, broadcaster, and publisher **John C. Dvorak KJ6LNG**'s own hardware finally gave out on Monday morning, July 20th, 2026, at the age of 80. He went peacefully, albeit suddenly, with Mimi at his side, critiquing the acting and story line of NCIS.

John loved doing the No Agenda show, loved the feedback, good and bad. He was not a man known for affection, but he had a deep appreciation for you all. He enjoyed entertaining you, challenging you, debating you, and most of all meeting you. He enjoyed reading your emails and letters more than he would ever admit.

John will miss No Agenda.

The good news is that the show will go on, as John would demand. Tomorrow's show, episode 1888 (his favorite number, how fitting) will be a remembrance of JCD with stories and anecdotes from his family and friends about the man you've known, and most of you liked. It is on you podcast app.

We would like to invite you all to write in and share. Email your notes to notes@noagenda-show.net

