



# The Peanut Whistle

The Monthly Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Club of Parker County

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 26 NO.12

DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE

## ARCPC OFFICERS

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THAD WEIKAL KG5ATD

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
TONY JONES KG5ELV

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
WILLIAM NEWMAN WL9N

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**CLUB SERVICES**

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION**  
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WILLIAM NEWMAN WL9N

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
**CLUB HISTORIAN**  
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**PROGRAM-ACTIVITIES**  
VACANT

**FIELD DAY 2016**  
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**CHAPLIN**  
CLAY RILEY KC0BWR

**HOSPITALITY**  
JUDY WOLF KB5JEY

**REGISTERED AGENT**  
JERRY THOMPSON W7JT

**RACES-ARES**  
ALLEN BEADLE KB5AB  
TONY GUESS N5NRU  
BILL NEWMAN WL9N

**VE TESTING**  
DOUG MAY WB5VQQ

**ARRL**  
**WEST GULF-NTX STAFF**  
DAVID WOOLWEAVER K5RAV  
JOHN STRATTON N5AUS  
NANCY MCCAIN K5NLM

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the ARCPC membership



### A LITTLE CHRISTMAS HUMOR

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...  
I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...  
I PRAY FOR A NEW DVD PLAYER..."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Upcoming Ham Fests/Conventions

01/14/2017 | San Antonio Radio Fiesta  
 Location: Schertz, TX  
 Type: ARRL Hamfest  
 Sponsor: San Antonio Radio Club  
 Website: <http://w5sc.org>

01/20/2017 | North Texas Section Convention  
 (Cowtown Hamfest)  
 Location: Forest Hill, TX  
 Type: ARRL Convention  
 Sponsor: Cowtown Amateur Radio Club  
 Website: <http://cowtownhamfest.com>  
 website: <http://w5sc.org>

02/25/2017 | Orange Hamfest 2017  
 Location: Orange, TX  
 Type: ARRL Hamfest  
 Sponsor: Orange ARC and Jefferson Co. ARC  
 Website: [http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index\\_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm](http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm)

03/18/2017 | Swapfest  
 Location: Georgetown, TX  
 Type: ARRL Hamfest  
 Sponsor: Williamson County Amateur Radio Club  
 Website: <http://wcarc.com>

**ARCPC VE TESTING**

VE testing for all license classes and upgrades will be conducted on the third Monday of each month, except November and December.  
 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
 Contact: Douglas E. May WB5VQQ  
 (817) 613-7289  
 Email: [dougmay@uwmail.com](mailto:dougmay@uwmail.com)  
 VEC: ARRL/VEC  
 Location: What-a-Burger off of I20  
 Weatherford TX 76086

**ARCPC HOSPITALITY**

December, 2016 Meeting

**Refreshments**

*Judy Wolf*  
 KB5JEY

**Jake Sez!**

*“ You know you’re aging if you get  
 lost strolling down memory lane”*

**The Amateur’s Code**

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

**The Radio Amateur is:**

**CONSIDERATE**..... never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**..... offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE**..... with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

**FRIENDLY**..... with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED**..... Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC**..... with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

## November 2016 ARCPC MEETING MINUTES



The Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Thad Weikal, KG5ATD – at a substitute location due to the National Election – at the Cherry Park Building, 300 S. Alamo Street, Weatherford. No kitchen facilities were opened for this meeting.

The Invocation was given by David Nelson, KG5ASU, and afterwards Vice-President Tony Jones, KG5ELV lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge of Allegiance to State Flag which was said by all in attendance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** President Weikal KG5ATD initiated personal introductions around the meeting tables. A total of 12 members were present for the meeting. There was also 1 guest present at the meeting; Randy Peterson, KG5QDZ, a recent Technician licensee from Weatherford.

There were no reported upgrades or new calls.

**OLD BUSINESS: *Meeting Minutes*** A motion was made by David Nelson, KG5ASU and a second by Richard Luedtke, KF5ILA to approve the Minutes for the October 11th, 2016 Regular Monthly Meetings as printed in the November 2016 edition of the 'Peanut Whistle'.

**ARCPC 2016 Fall Hamfest Committee** Vice-President Tony Jones KG5ELV reported the Committee is still working on the premise of conducting the next HamFest in the Spring of 2017, and expanding the amateur radio focus to include disaster and emergency related aspects. The Committee believes they must continue looking for a local host site of minimal cost to make the event profitable for the Club. Two sites currently being looked at are the Senior Center near I-20 and the American Legion Hall. The progress on this project will be reported on at the next regular monthly meeting.

**W5PC Yahoo group emails** President Weikal opened discussion to review progress made on the issue of the W5PC Yahoo Group. Director Will Teague W5KD stated that he remains locked out of the original Club Yahoo Group due to changes that were made, but remains open to act on any recommendations. He also added that ARRL Club mail was still being forwarded to the immediate past President. President Weikal stated we needed to continue to move towards establishing a new Yahoo Group and email address for ARCPC so all known email addresses of members and unpaid members are included on ARCPC traffic. Secretary-Treasurer Newman was requested to place the new generic Club e-mail address on the ARCPC website so that e-mail inquiries could be better directed. The progress on this project will be reported on at the next regular monthly meeting.

**Social Media Committee** President Weikal KG5ATD opened discussion to review progress being made on the issue of the how the Club might improve its exposure on social media to increase awareness and its membership. Jay Cox, KG5BZW reported that he has been waiting for the final changes to be made on the Yahoo Group and Club e-mail addresses – in order to add them to social media accounts. The progress on this project will be reported on at the next regular monthly meeting.

President Weikal KG5ATD stated he had spoken to Parker County CERT Coordinator Kit Marshall KF5DYB and plans were being made to hold the Annual Holiday Dinner in December. He solicited event dates in which the majority of the Club membership had no conflict, to which December 5, 8, 15, 19 and 20 were recommended. As no location had been yet determined he requested Secretary-Treasurer Newman to see if Harberger Hill Community Building might be open for rental during any of those dates and what the cost might be. Final decisions on the dinner will be communicated with the membership as soon as possible.

**SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT:** Secretary-Treasurer William Newman, WL9N reported on the current membership status – that as of November 7th the current membership of the Club remains unchanged at 39 paid members, 1 associate member, and 17 life members for a total of 57 active members.

There is one outstanding bill for \$102.00 to the U.S. Postal Service for annual postal box fees. A motion was made by Director Will Teague, W5KD and seconded by Jay Cox, KG5BZW to accept the Secretary-Treasurer Report.

*Continued on page 4*

## November 2016 ARCPC MEETING MINUTES



*Continued from page 3*

**NEW BUSINESS: 'Elmers list' from Peanut Whistle.** President Weikal KG5ATD stated that he would like to establish a listing of Club members that would like to serve in the role of an 'Elmer' – and help out new amateur radio operators with equipment and operational issues. The progress of this will be reported on at the next regular monthly meeting.

**Monthly Club Newsletter** Director Will Teague W5KD made a solicitation for help from any interested Club member as a Backup/Alternate to his role as publisher of the Monthly ARCPC Club Newsletter.

**Monday NET Control Volunteers** President Weikal inquired of the membership if anyone would volunteer to assist with the Club's Net Control duties on Monday nights at 8:00pm during the next five-week period beginning November 14th. Vice-President Tony Jones volunteered to assume duties for the November 14th date.

**VOLUNTEER EXAMINER (VE) TESTING:** VE Coordinator Doug May, WB5VQQ reported that a VE Session was held on October 17th at the I-20 Whataburger – and that three candidates successfully completed testing – receiving 2 new Technician licenses and 1 General class upgrade. He reminded the membership that there would be no VE testing during the months of November and December, with the next VE Session being held on January 16th, 2017 at 7pm at the What-a-Burger Restaurant.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:** President Weikal KG5ATD invited the Club membership to join Mayor Kit Marshall, KF5DYB the City of Aledo and the Aledo Economic Development Corporation on Friday, November 11, 2016 at 10:00 am at the Aledo Commons Park at FM1187 & Old Annetta Road as they Honor Our Service Men & Women in the dedication ceremony of the First Ever Aledo Veterans Plaza. Several dignitaries and Special Guests will be present for this Memorable Occasion for the City of Aledo.

**TRAINING:** David Nelson, KG5ASU conducted an equipment-related training segment involving the use of a 'tiger tail' extension to the stubby antennas used on HT radios. Per his instructions you basically add a short wire to the antenna's outer ground connection or to an equivalent case screw that's electrically connected to the antenna's ground side. He stated that this modification acted as a counterpoise and it will noticeably improve both transmit and receive. Vice-President Tony Jones KG5ELV stated he will prepare a training session for the December 2016 Regular Meeting on an entry-level SDR station.

Attendees purchased tickets for the 50/50 raffle, which was won by Jay Cox, KG5BZW in the amount of \$6.50. At 8:04pm a motion was made to adjourn by Ron Luedtke, KF5IOA and seconded by Jay Cox, KG5BZW.



Respectfully submitted, By William Newman, WL9N  
Secretary/Treasurer



### CERT Photo from BIG X Regional CERT training

Amateur Radio Club of Parker County members KG5ASU David Nelson, KF5DXV Jeff Harper, and KG5ATD Thad Weikal provided CERT team emergency communications and NET control while participating in the CERT Regional Big X training that was held at Tarrant County College on November 11th and 12th 2016.

## Is there a market for a \$400 “prepper” radio?

Here's my November 2016 column. Have a happy holidays!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of days ago, a reader wrote:

"I would like to know if it would be feasible to build a radio with the following features:

- \* SSB operation (only SSB is required, CW would be an additional benefit)
- \* 20 – 50W of power
- \* Portable-friendly (lightweight, capable of operating at lower voltages from small portable batteries)
- \* Low receiver current drain
- \* Coverage of 40m and 80m bands. Very limited coverage is acceptable. Even channelized coverage of a few select frequencies would be acceptable.
- \* S-meter

"It strikes me that there is a large market for ham radio products for “preppers,” and there has been a lot of interest in the Baofeng line of radios from that market. I think there would be a LOT of interest in a radio that could go far beyond line-of-sight and contact friends or family hundreds of miles away. Preppers would have little interest in contacts more than a state or two away, and no interest at all in novel operating modes. I wonder if a radio that trims away excess features (all-mode operation, wide frequency coverage, high power output, sophisticated audio filtering) could be produced for a lot less cost than currently available HF rigs. If so, and it was paired with a decent NVIS dipole and some General-class study materials and sold as a package deal, it could be a huge hit – Something you could tuck in a bug-out-bag, set up in the field, and use to make contacts in a reasonably local area, or set up in your backyard at home and use minimal power to operate.

"Is there a reason why I don't see radios like this on the market, some kind of technological limitation that would make this sort of thing impractical? If something like this was built, what kind of cost and performance would you expect? I'm certainly not expecting any kind of detailed analysis, but even just a speculation about if such a project could be feasible would be appreciated."

I replied:

"I think one of the reasons you don't see radios with the feature set you describe is that more full-featured radios are already pretty inexpensive. The Yaesu FT-450D, for example, costs less than \$800 and offers 100W output. The FT-817ND, which is designed for portable operation, costs less than \$700. Is that too much for preppers?"

"While it might seem like you could sell a radio with fewer features for less, I think that you hit the law of diminishing returns. At some point, removing features, doesn't reduce the cost all that much. For example, removing the CW capabilities from a transceiver capable of SSB operation really doesn't save that much because in a way CW operation is really just a subset of SSB operation. You'll save the cost of a key jack, but how much is that? Maybe a buck or two. Having said that, it could be that the big amateur radio manufacturers are overlooking an opportunity here."

We swapped a couple more e-mails about this. He noted, “Most preppers would probably rather buy a high-end AR-15 or several months worth of storage food for \$800 than a radio.” I suggested, “If there was a catastrophic event, and you really needed to communicate, wouldn't it seem silly to have not spent the extra \$400 on a really decent radio?”

What do you think? Is my analysis a little too simplistic perhaps? Are amateur radio manufacturers ignoring a potential market?

73, Dan KB6NU

## North Central Texas Connection (NCTC) Combined Repeater Systems

### WIDE AREA WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY Combined Repeater Systems as of 11/13/2016

The repeaters of North Central Texas Connection (NCTC) are connected on Wednesday and Sunday to the repeater systems of Freedom Link and ERS. This effectively gives 2 meter or 70cm coverage from Abilene to Shreveport and Texarkana. The closest repeaters for Weatherford are Aledo and Brazos. The two repeaters at Brazos are on Chestnut Mountain about 10 miles SSW of Mineral Wells. The 146.90 repeater antenna is 960' above ground or about 2,049 MSL. The NCTC, ERS and Freedom Link are open repeater systems and all licensed hams are welcome to use the systems. The systems can also be accessed via EchoLink and Wires-X. Use nctc.link to access the website on the internet.

#### North Central Texas Connection

City County Frequency Tone Transmit Offset

Aledo Parker 443.200 110.9 +5 Mhz  
 Arlington Tarrant 443.850 110.9 +5 Mhz  
 Bonham Fannin 443.750 100.0 +5 Mhz  
 Brazos Palo Pinto 146.900 110.9 -600 Khz  
 Brazos Palo Pinto 444.175 114.8 +5 Mhz  
 Caddo - Eastland Stephens 444.725 110.9 +5 Mhz  
 Emory Rains 443.625 151.4 +5 Mhz  
 Fort Worth Tarrant 442.125 156.7 +5 Mhz  
 Hamilton Hamilton 147.200 88.5 +600 Khz  
 Nevada Collin 442.600 110.9 +5 Mhz  
 Paris Lamar 444.500 114.8 +5 Mhz  
 Plano Collin 444.175 110.9 +5 Mhz  
 Sulphur Springs Hopkins 444.825 151.4 +5 Mhz

#### Freedom Link

City County Frequency Tone Transmit Offset

Atlanta Cass 145.310 100.0 -600 Khz  
 Karnack Harrison 145.170 100.0 -600 Khz  
 Kilgore Gregg 145.450 136.5 -600 Khz  
 Longview Gregg 146.640 136.5 -600 Khz  
 Marietta Cass 146.840 100.0 -600 Khz  
 Nashville, AR Howard 147.045 107.2 +600 Khz  
 Pittsburg Camp 147.360 100.0 +600 Khz  
 Quitman Wood 145.100 136.5 -600 Khz  
 Shreveport, LA Caddo 146.760 186.2 -600 Khz  
 Sulphur Springs Hopkins 145.110 100.0 -600 Khz  
 Texarkana Bowie 145.390 100.0 -600 Khz  
 Texarkana Bowie 444.425 100.0 +5 Mhz

#### Emergency Repeater System N5ERS

City County Frequency Tone Transmit Offset

Denton Denton 927.4125 DPL 432 -25 Mhz  
 Wylie Collin 442.100 110.9 +5 Mhz  
 Flower Mound Denton 147.300 114.8 +600 Khz  
 Flower Mound Denton 444.850 110.9 +5 Mhz

Information on this page was compiled by Mack Avery KJ5MA

**Membership Application/Renewal form 2016-2017**



**W5PC**

[www.w5pc.org](http://www.w5pc.org)



**AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 1795  
WEATHERFORD, TX 76086**

**ARCPC INFORMATION NET**

Mondays at 8:00 pm on 147.040 (Tone 110.9)

**WC5C Net**

Thursdays at 8:00 pm on 147.1600+ (Tone 110.9)

**MEETINGS**

**The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County holds general membership meetings Throughout the year on a monthly basis the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00pm at Harberger Hill Community Center, 701 Narrow Street, Weatherford, Texas 76086.**

**AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_  
LICENSE CLASS: (E)(A)(G)(T)(N) ARRL MEMBER: (YES) (NO) STATUS: (NEW) (RENEWAL)  
(CIRCLE APPLICABLE ANSWERS ON ABOVE LINE)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP (plus 4): \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK: \_\_\_\_\_

**INITIATION FEE: One time initiation fee per family - \$5.00** (+ 1 same household or full time college

**ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00. HAM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00** student)(Add an additional \$5.00 if you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter).

HAM FAMILY MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out and mail this application to the ARCPC Secretary/Treasurer along with you check or money order for the amount due. Or, bring it to the next regular club meeting.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JUNE**