



# The Peanut Whistle

The Monthly Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Club of Parker County

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 27 NO. 10

OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE

## HARVEST MOON 2017

### ARCPC OFFICERS

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THAD WEIKAL KG5ATD

#### VICE PRESIDENT

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#### PUBLIC INFORMATION

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#### EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM NEWMAN WL9N

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

CLUB HISTORIAN  
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#### FIELD DAY 2018

VACANT

#### HOSPITALITY

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#### REGISTERED AGENT

JERRY THOMPSON W7JT

#### RACES-ARES

TONY GUESS N5NRU  
BILL NEWMAN WL9N

#### VE TESTING

DOUG MAY WB5VQQ

#### ARRL

WEST GULF-NTX STAFF  
DAVID WOOLWEAVER K5RAV  
JOHN STRATTON N5AUS  
JAY URISH W5GM



The Harvest Moon is the first full moon that is closest to the autumnal equinox, but this year's moon will be a little later than usual.

This 2017 Harvest Moon arrives on Thursday, October 5. Usually, the Harvest Moon occurs in September, but this year, the October full moon arrived closer to the fall equinox. So, it takes home the Harvest Moon title.

Technically, the moon will be 100 percent full at 2:40 p.m. which is still daylight for us, but the moon will still look fairly full after sunset.

One thing that's unique about the Harvest Moon is the timing of moonrise - when the moon rises above the horizon - after the full moon.

During a regular month, the moon normally rises about 50 minutes later each day. But after a Harvest Moon, the moon rises only 30-35 minutes later each day.

To the naked eye, that lower difference in the moonrise timing will make it seem like we'll have a full moon night.

The Harvest Moon isn't any bigger or brighter than your normal full moon.

Like any other full moon, it does appear to have an orange tint in some cases as it rises along the horizon.

When you look towards the horizon, you are looking through a greater thickness of the earth's atmosphere, compared to when you look up at the sky.

That thicker atmosphere scatters blue light very efficiently, but it lets our eyes see more red. That's why the moon looks more orange.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Upcoming Ham Fests/Conventions

**10/27/2017 | Texoma Hamarama**

Location: Ardmore, OK  
 Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor:  
 Texoma Hamarama, Inc.  
 Website: <http://texomahamarama.org>

**10/21/2017 | NTX Mentorfest 2017**

Location: Irving, TX  
 Type: ARRL Hamfest  
 Sponsor: Irving Amateur Radio Club & ARRL NTX  
 Section  
 Website: <http://www.irvingarc.org>

**11/04/2017 | Enid ARC Hamfest**

Location: Enid, OK  
 Type: ARRL Hamfest  
 Sponsor: Enid Amateur Radio Club  
 Website: <http://enidarc.org>

**03/17/2018 | 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**

October, 2017 Meeting

**Refreshments**

*Judy Wolf*  
 KB5JEY

**Jake Sez!**

*“A bargain is a transaction in which each person thinks he got the best deal“*

**UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERS**

To an optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be. What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers? Mechanical engineers build weapons and civil engineers build targets.

The graduate with a science degree asks, “Why does it work?” The graduate with an engineering degree asks, “How does it work?” The graduate with an accounting degree asks, “How much will it cost?” The graduate with an arts degree asks, “Do you want fries with that?” Normal people believe that if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain’t broke, it doesn’t have enough features yet.

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, “What’s with those blokes? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!” The doctor chimed in, “I don’t know, but I’ve never seen such inept golf!” The priest said, “Here comes the greens keeper. Let’s have a word with him.” He said, “Hello, George! What’s wrong with that group ahead of us? They’re rather slow, aren’t they?” The greens keeper replied, “Oh, yes. That’s a group of blind fire fighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play free anytime.” The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, “That’s so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight.” The doctor said, “Good idea. I’m going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there’s anything he can do for them.” The engineer said, “Why can’t they play at night?”

## ARCPC MEETING MINUTES



Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting  
Amateur Radio Club of Parker County  
Tuesday, Sept 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 by Vice President Tony Jones, KG5ELV, at the Parker County Emergency Management (EOC) Building, 215 Trinity Street, Weatherford.

The invocation was given by Vice President Tony Jones, KG5ELV. Tony Jones afterwards led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge of Allegiance to State Flag which was said by all in attendance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### *Introductions:*

Vice President Tony Jones, KG5ELV, initiated introductions around the meeting tables. A total of 12 members were present for the meeting and 1 visitor.

#### *Meeting minutes:*

The peanut whistle did not quite make it out, however, last month's meeting was the annual Ice Cream Social and also Baofeng programming class taught by Bob Ballard KG5SQJ, so there were no minutes to be approved. Even so, VP Jones noted that we met the minimum requirements for this business meeting tonight.

#### *Secretary/Treasurer Report:*

The Financial Report was given by Secretary/Treasurer Jay Cox, KG5BZW.

Membership: We have 22 active members and 17 life members.

There was a \$50 deposit for new or renewing members into our checking account. We had no bills.

A motion to accept the treasurers report was made by Jerry Thompson W7JT, and a second by Tony Guess N5NRU.

### OLD BUSINESS:

We are still in need of a Social Media Director.

We are also in need of a backup newsletter editor. We had an announcement by Director Will Teague W5KD that December will be the last month he will act as editor. He's been doing it for quite a while.

#### *Our club inventory is still pending.*

We're still looking for elmers to put in the Peanut Whistle. Will Teague noted that a few years back he also attempted to get a list of elmers together that people could email, etc. but that also went nowhere.

Will Newman WL9N noted that the North Texas Section was attempting to get a list of elmers together. He suggested that if we can't put a list together for our local club, maybe we could at least put some effort into supporting that.

Wendell Holden KD5KTQ noted that there's going to be a Mentorfest in Irving sometime in October (Editor's note: It will be October 21, 2017 Time: 7:30am – 4:00pm, at Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving, TX 75061). Bob Ballard KG5SQJ later in the meeting noted that he submitted his Baofeng class as a possible mentor-ship action there.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### *VE Testing Report:*

Doug May WB5VQQ was unable to give a report, but Joel Page KW5JP confirmed there was no one to take the VE test during the last test session. The next time would be next Monday, September 18, 2017 at the Whataburger in Weatherford on I-20 (every third Monday).

Allen CERT(Community Emergency Response Team) Emergency Preparedness Expo:

VP Tony Jones asked if anyone had information on this expo.

(Editor's Note: It was to have taken place September 2nd but was canceled due to the response efforts for Hurricane Harvey.)

*Continued on page 4*

## ARCPC MEETING MINUTES

### *Parker County new RACES Alignment*

Tony Guess N5NRU noted that at the last Commissioner's Court meeting three weeks ago, the commissioner's court appointed him to be the Parker County RACES coordinator. Parker County has decided to align itself with RACES rather than ARES. The reason being that Weatherford wants to have direct communication/command with DPS in Austin, rather than having to go through ARRL. However, RACES has fallen by the wayside the past several years, and it is his intention to do several things. The first thing is to get applications out, and to get those who wish to apply to Parker County RACES approved and into RACES. The application to work RACES will require applicants to do FEMA 100 series testing, and FEMA 700 series testing, and a background check.

RACES sent Tony an application PDF, but he's going to have to change the wording on it; it was for Tarrant County.

Tarrant County, Denton County, and Parker County all will be RACES oriented.

He wants to get it active, and he wants to create a closed Facebook Group/Page for it. We're going to try to get some ID badges and kits. We hope to have a quarterly meeting, and he hopes to establish the RACES net again with several different net control operators. They are sanctified, anointed, appointed by the county judge and county commissioner, so it's official.

A side note: Tony showed an "atta boy" note from the Volunteer Official Observer's Corp. They normally tell you things like your tower doesn't have lights on or whatnot. But Tony was dabbling in PSK31 and he didn't know what he was doing but he apparently was the only one the observer could hear that day and so he got the complementary **note**.

### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### *TX QSO Party:*

Secretary Jay Cox noted that on September 23 and 24 there was going to be the Texas QSO Party contest. Jerry Thompson W7JT noted the Tri-County Club was going to Fort Richardson in Jack County to participate. Everyone in the club was welcome to join them or to participate on their own. If you work from home and you use your club callsign you can aggregate your results with others in your club.

#### *Baofeng class at the Kilocycle Club*

Bob Ballard KG5SQJ is going to hold another Baofeng class at the Kilocycle club on September 21. It's going to be at the Old Pancake House on University in Fort Worth at 7PM.

#### *A Message from Kevin Lemon, Texas DPS:*

A note was shared from Kevin Lemon of Texas DPS  
(Editor's Note: The following was retyped by the me as I did not have an electronic copy. Any typos are likely my own.)

Todd Early, the head of DPS Communications, came by this morning with our FEMA 6 Reg rep. They also had the heads of the FCC and the FCC Media Rep. FEMA wanted to show them our radio room. I had an opportunity to sing the praises of the amateur radio community during this event, directly to the head of the FCC.

Thank you for all of your hard work. It has not gone un-noticed.

Kevin Lemon  
Technical Operations Specialist/SRO  
Texas Division of Emergency Management  
Texas Homeland Security  
Texas Department of Public Safety

#### *Monday Night Net Volunteers:*

Vice President Tony Jones inquired if any attending members would volunteer to assist with the Club's Net Control duties on Monday nights at 8:00pm during the next four-week period beginning on Monday, Sept 18th. Tony Jones volunteered to assist on that Monday. There were no other volunteers.

Our primary repeater for our Monday night information nets is 147.040+ PL110.9.  
Our backup repeater is 443.800+ PL110.9.  
Our secondary backup repeater is 443.2+ PL110.9 and that's our local North Central Texas Connection repeater (so if we do hold a net there, it will be broadcast all over the NCTC system).  
Offer to program Radio Shack GRE Radio Scanners

Will Teague offered to program any GRE Radio Scanners with all the new updated information at the next meeting off of the computer.

#### **TRAINING & ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no training session scheduled for this meeting.

There was a 50/50 raffle, resulting in \$13 collected and 6.50 distributed to the winner, Wendell Holden

A motion was made at 7:48 pm to adjourn by Jerry Thompson W7JT. Will Teague W5KD seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
By Jay Cox, KG5BZW  
Secretary/Treasurer

## HAM? HAM radio? ham radio? Amateur Radio? amateur radio!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ARRL PR mailing list, we've been discussing the proper way to refer to amateur radio. What brought this up was an email from one list subscriber, Richard, WB6NAH, who was (rightfully) proud of the work that his club—the Skagit Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Club—was doing. He noted that they were even featured in the police department's emergency preparedness brochure:

[[download image from <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/skagit-arc-768x1024.jpg>]]

As you can see, the brochure refers to "HAM radio" and "HAM radio operators."

Referring to amateur radio in this way just drives me crazy. "Ham radio" is just a nickname for amateur radio, and "HAM" is certainly not an acronym for anything. I congratulated Richard on getting his club included in the brochure, but noted, "...it's not HAM radio! It's either 'amateur radio' or 'ham radio' (ham is not an acronym). I hate to be nitpicky about this, but as a professional writer, this usage just drives me crazy." He replied, "I agree on Amateur Radio, that was the city's call."

That kicked off the discussion.

One ham replied to me privately, "Thank you...I am continually trying to explain that it is not an acronym or abbreviation."

Another replied to the list:

"The most correct term is "amateur radio" or alternatively "ham radio", both written in normal case. If using "ham radio", it is a best practice to first write "amateur (ham) radio" in the first non-header/non-title occurrence.

"Some will write "Amateur Radio" in proper noun format (first letters in caps) and while this may be acceptable to many and in certain venues, anyone using a style handbook will say it is incorrect. Less correct is to write "Ham Radio" in proper noun format as this is a slang term, albeit a popular one. Of course either term may be written as proper nouns when part of a title or name of an organization.

"Least correct is to write "HAM" in all caps; as stated by others, ham is not an abbreviation or acronym. Writing it as "HAM" is completely wrong, will drive many people bonkers, and should be avoided at all costs."

Ward, N0AX, offered this explanation:

"To clarify where the capitalization originated, there is a long-standing ARRL Board Directive, decades old, stipulating that the words "Amateur Radio" be capitalized in ARRL publications and documents. Most non-amateur publications return it to the lower-case style that is used for non-proper nouns."

One guy got a little miffed that we were wasting our time discussing this at all:

"You know, I've been reading this thread and I think people are getting too hung up on very minor details. The bottom line they got PR. So something wasn't spelled right or capitalized, so what. The message got out and IMHO that's the bottom line. Let's not waste any more bandwidth on this."

I agreed that it was great that they were included in the brochure, and that we were probably beating this topic to death, but I don't think these are minor details. I said that PR professionals pride themselves on getting the details right. So should amateur radio PR people.

I'll give the final word to Dan, AI4GK. He wrote:

"I don't think that standardizing what we call ourselves qualifies as getting hung up on minor details. If we don't have a standardized way of referring to us, how can we expect a public, who already is confused, to understand who we are?"

I don't think that you can argue with this. Let's avoid confusion by using "amateur radio" when writing about our hobby/service. I'd even urge the ARRL to rethink their use of "Amateur Radio." Sometimes, it may be OK to use "ham radio," but it's just not correct to use "HAM radio" or just "HAM."

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not picking nits about the name of our hobby, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### **IARU President: Traditional Aspects of Ham Radio May Not Be Attractive to Newcomers**

The 24th General Conference of International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) convened September 17 – 23 in Landshut, Germany, with representatives of 40 member-societies present and another 13 represented by proxy. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, welcomed the attendees, urging them to reflect upon what will attract the majority of young people into Amateur Radio, “and what our mutual expectations should be.” Ellam said his personal observation is that, while some younger people are interested in the more traditional aspects of Amateur Radio, many are only interested in ham radio as an adjunct to other possibly unrelated interests.

“I applaud the excellent work that has been undertaken in this region through the Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) program.” Tim said, crediting the hard work of IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group Chair Lisa Leenders, PA2LS. YOTA’s summer Amateur Radio camps have attracted young hams from around the world; this year’s was held in the UK.

“Our ambition should be to embrace these individuals in their activities and accept that some of the more traditional aspects of the hobby will hold little interest to them, and indeed may no longer be relevant,” he continued. “That is not to say that some are not enthused with what we all hold as the core of our hobby, such as contesting or operating generally. I fear, though, that we need to look at what will attract the new generations to Amateur Radio and make sure we promote Amateur Radio as meeting their needs, rather than promoting the historical view of what Amateur Radio has to offer.”

Delegates to the plenary adopted a proposal that all IARU bodies and member-societies use every opportunity to exert pressure on national regulators to implement all the recommendations that protect the amateur bands.

They also approved initiating a simple noise-measuring campaign among Region 1 member-societies, giving IARU the ability to offer an independent opinion on the noise situation in the bands and the trends over time. Brendan Minish, EI6IZ, was appointed to chair the Noise Measuring Campaign Sub-Working Group.

Region 1’s highest recognition, the Roy Stevens, G2BVN, Memorial Trophy, was conferred upon Colin Thomas, G3PSM, for his outstanding contribution to Amateur Radio and the work of the IARU over several decades.

A new Executive Committee was elected during the General Conference’s Final Plenary. Chosen to serve as EC officers for 2017 to 2020 were President Don Beattie, G3BJ; Vice President Faisal Al-Ajmi, 9K2RR; Secretary Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, and Treasurer Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE. EC members will be Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR; Alessandro Carletti, IV3KKW; Mats Espling, SM6EAN; Joerg Jaehrig, DJ3HW, and Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO. Their terms will begin on October 31.

The Deutsche Amateur Radio Club (DARC) was the host for the conference, which is held every 3 years. The full Conference Report is available on the IARU Region 1 website. The 25th IARU Region 1 General Conference will take place in September 2020 in Novi Sad, Serbia.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### **Amateur Radio Reports: Arecibo Observatory Dish Sustained Serious Damage from Maria**

Articles on the [National Geographic](#) and [Space.com](#) websites last weekend cited Amateur Radio reports that Puerto Rico's [Arecibo Observatory](#) came through Hurricane Maria largely intact but "with some significant damage." Universities Space Research Association ([USRA](#)), which helps to operate the Observatory, said it learned via "short wave radio contact" that staff and family members sheltering at Arecibo are safe.

"The major structures, including the 300-meter telescope, are intact, though suffered some damage when the atmospheric radar line feed broke off, and falling debris from it punctured the dish in several places," USRA reported on its website. "Also, a separate 12-meter dish used as a phase reference for Very Long Baseline Interferometry was lost."

Observatory officials are still assessing the damage, but Jim Breakall, WA3FET, of Penn State University, told ARRL that the 96-foot line feed antenna at 430 MHz is "historically the key piece to the observatory." It's also the antenna that he and others have used for Amateur Radio moonbounce activities from Arecibo. The Observatory is home to KP4AO.

"To hear that this 10,000-pound key piece to the Observatory fell and hit the 1,000-meter dish is just a huge shock," Breakall said last Saturday. "This antenna was connected to the 2.5 million W 430-MHz radar transmitter that was a key to ionospheric experiments. It is a great loss for sure."

Angel Vazquez, WP3R, who manages radio telescope operations at the Observatory, was one of the only radio amateurs able to pass along any information; among those he contacted was Princeton University professor and Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT. Vazquez was using a generator that, Breakall told ARRL, was not working very well. "Many others have heard about all of this and have come to help relay messages to loved ones and friends to let people know they are okay," Breakall added.

Breakall said he's less concerned to learn that his own Amateur Radio contest station, on a hill not far from the Observatory, was destroyed by Hurricane Maria. "While this is sad for me and others, my concern is with the safety and health of many friends and the people of Puerto Rico in General," he said. "This is my second home, and many of the people there I treat as my brothers and sisters."

USRA reported last weekend that the access road to the Observatory was covered with debris and impassable.

Breakall told ARRL that he's worried about what might happen in the weeks and months ahead. "I just hope that desperation does not set in, and things get out of hand there," he said. "It is going to be very tough."

**Membership Application/Renewal form 2017-2018**



**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 the Parker County EOC 215 Trinity 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: \$15.00. HAM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$20.00** 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 ARPCP 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**