



# The Peanut Whistle

The Monthly Newsletter of the Amateur Radio Club of Parker County

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 27 NO. 11

NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE

#### ARCPC OFFICERS

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THAD WEIKAL KG5ATD

##### VICE PRESIDENT

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##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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##### PROGRAM-ACTIVITIES

VACANT

##### FIELD DAY 2018

VACANT

##### HOSPITALITY

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##### REGISTERED AGENT

JERRY THOMPSON W7JT

##### RACES-ARES

TONY GUESS N5NRU  
BILL NEWMAN WL9N

##### VE TESTING

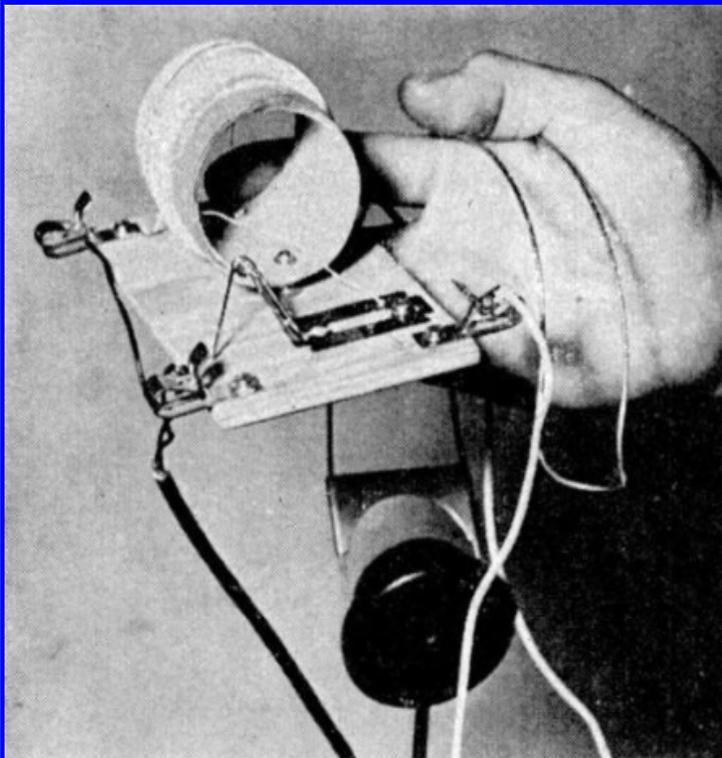
DOUG MAY WB5VQQ

##### ARRL

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

## FOX HOLE RADIO

From World War II



"Foxhole radio" used on the Italian Front in World War 2. It uses a pencil lead attached to a safety pin pressing against a razor blade for a detector. In addition to mineral crystals, the oxide coatings of many metal surfaces act as semiconductors (detectors) capable of rectification. Crystal radios have been improvised using detectors made from rusty nails, corroded pennies, and many other common objects.

When Allied troops were halted near Anzio, Italy during the spring of 1944, powered personal radio receivers were strictly prohibited as the Germans had equipment that could detect the local oscillator signal of superheterodyne receivers. Crystal sets lack power driven local oscillators, hence they could not be detected. Some resourceful soldiers constructed "crystal" sets from discarded materials to listen to news and music. One type used a blue steel razor blade and a pencil lead for a detector. The lead point touching the semiconducting oxide coating (rust) on the blade formed a crude point-contact diode. By carefully adjusting the pencil lead on the surface of the blade, they could find sensitive spots, of iron oxide, capable of rectification. The lead of the pencil is made of graphite and clay and so it would inhibit further corrosion that would result if copper or iron wire was used in its place. Any further corrosion at the point of contact would ruin the diode effect found at that spot and further adjustment would be necessary. The sets were dubbed "foxhole radios"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Upcoming Ham Fests/Conventions

01/19/2018 | North Texas Section Convention (Cowtown Hamfest)  
 Location: Forest Hill, TX  
 Type: ARRL Convention  
 Sponsor: Cowtown Amateur Radio Club  
 Website: <http://cowtownhamfest.com>

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!**

*“Nothing can be sliced so thin that it doesn’t have two sides“*



FET (Grid) Dip Meter Kit

Joel Page, KW5JP, is planning a ‘Show & Tell’ at our next meeting covering a new kit, a ‘FET (Grid) Dip Meter’.

Many of the club members that are new hams may not be familiar with a grid dip meter or what it can be used for. Joel will include those details in his presentation.

## ARCPC MEETING MINUTES



**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting  
Amateur Radio Club of Parker County  
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 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 David Nelson, KG5ASU. 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 10 members were present for the meeting.

#### **Meeting minutes:**

A request was made to approve the minutes for the last meeting. Richard Luedtke KF5ILA, made a motion to approve the minutes. Ron Luedtke KF5IOA, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **Secretary/Treasurer Report:**

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

Membership: We have 24 active members and 17 life members.

Our checking account had a balance of \$1,177.43 after a deposit of 50 dollars and payment/check for Judy Wolf KB5JEY (bereavement) that was finally cashed of \$42.20.

(We forgot to request a motion to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's report! We skipped along to Old Business.)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

We are still in need of a Social Media Director.

We announced Jerry Thompson W7JT volunteered to become the new editor of the Peanut Whistle after the end of the year.

VP Tony Jones noted the cooler weather we now have so it may not be nearly so hard to do a club inventory now, and we need volunteers for that.

Ron Luedtke asked the club if there was any information available for alternate club meeting dates. VP Tony Jones admitted he did not have that information (President Thad Weikal was going to investigate that further).

VP Tony Jones noted in our official club officers email account we received some emails and replies were sent but we never heard back from them. Secretary/Treasurer Jay Cox read out these emails so that if any club member knew these people, they could speak up and let the club officers know how to get back in touch with them.

Secretary/Treasurer Jay Cox also noted an email from former William Newman WL9N in regards to the ARRL ARCPC FCC club license really did expire on the 1st of October. Will Teague explained that it's going in the mail tonight (October, 10, 2017) as soon as we get someone with legible handwriting to fill out the form and all necessary signatures. Judy Wolf KB5JEY later assisted with the form.

*Continued on page 4*

## ARCPC MEETING MINUTES

### NEW BUSINESS

#### VE Testing Report:

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, October 16, 2017 at the Whataburger in Weatherford on I-20 (every third Monday).

#### DMR Repeaters installed:

Richard Luedtke KF5ILA noted that two DMR repeaters were recently installed in the county. The Springtown repeater is up (this repeater was originally at Saginaw) and as far as he knows the Weatherford Repeater is up (it showed up on <http://dmrtexas.net>). We also discussed the TYT DMR radios and radio kits.

#### Annual Get-Together of CERT with ARCPC

Kit Marshall, over at CERT, wanted us to think about when we ought to do our annual get-together/Christmas party. Do we want to do a Thanksgiving date or a Christmas date? Normally CERT takes care of setting up the location and we assist with the pot-luck dinner.

There was no request to move it to November so we'll request to keep the get-together in December.

### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We had no general announcements so we skipped over to Training/Presentation

#### PRESENTATION & ADJOURNMENT:

Joel Page gave a presentation on a Bunnell telegraph key and sounder (or clacker), a mid 19th and early 20th century device to transmit and receive Morse code over wire.

There was no 50/50 raffle.

A motion was made at 7:48 pm to adjourn by Ron Luedtke KF5IOA. David Nelson KG5ASU seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
By Jay Cox, KG5BZW  
Secretary/Treasurer

## Catalogs are about possibilities

Catalogs are about possibilities

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When I was a kid, I used to regularly get catalogs, such as the Allied Radio and Lafayette Radio catalogs shown below, and pore over them for hours. Even if I couldn't afford to buy the latest Knight-Kit or Lafayette shortwave radio, I could imagine what it would be like. These catalogs were chock full of possibilities.

So, you can imagine how I felt when, last Thursday, I found both the Autumn/Winter 2017 DX Engineering catalog and the 2018-2019 Newark Electronics/element14 catalog in my mailbox.

DX Engineering has really taken the amateur radio world by storm over the last ten years or so. I probably don't have to tell you about that. If you're an active amateur radio operator, I'm sure that you have heard about—and probably ordered from—DX Engineering.

I think that DX Engineering did a very smart thing by investing the money in a print catalog. There's something about browsing a print catalog that is just more satisfying than browsing online.

DX Engineering has just about everything you need to have fun with amateur radio. The one glaring omission? They still don't carry my study guides!

The Newark/element14 2018-2019 catalog is a completely different beast. Amateur radio operators are only a small part of Newark/element14's market, but one nonetheless. They have, for example, attended the Dayton Hamvention for many years.

As such, the catalog is not a "ham radio" catalog, but if you build stuff at all you'll find something of interest in its 1,799 pages. It includes nearly any kind of electronic part that you might need.

The section that might you might want to start with is the "makerspace" section. In this section, you'll find Raspberry Pis, BeagleBones, and even micro:bits. They really have everything, though, including passive and active components, connectors, cable, and enclosures.

Like I say, these catalogs are all about possibilities. You can search each company's website and find the parts they carry quickly and easily, but that experience is just not the same as browsing a print catalog and daydreaming about what you might find there.

So, get your own copies—they're free—and page through them. I'd be surprised if you didn't run across something that you didn't know about before, and it gave you some ideas about your next amateur radio project.

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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 browsing through catalogs, 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

### Simple 40-Meter Dipole Supports Advanced Mars Radar

11/10/2017

The venerable HF dipole has found a new home and purpose in space. The Mars advanced radar for subsurface and ionospheric sounding (MARSIS) on Mars Express uses a simple 40-meter dipole as the antenna for its subsurface sounding radar.

The dual-channel low-frequency sounder operates between 1.3 and 5.5 MHz for subsurface sounding and between 100 kHz and 5.5 MHz for ionospheric sounding. It's the first high-frequency sounding radar operating from orbital altitudes since the Apollo 17 lunar sounder in 1972. It's been operating successfully since August 2005.

The sounder has obtained returns from several kilometers below the Mars surface.

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### Solo DXpeditioner KC0W Improvises Replacement Antennas

11/09/2017

Minnesotan Tom Callas, KC0W, now operating as VR2/KC0W from Cheung Chau Island, Hong Kong, said his DXpedition started off well enough, with "a quick 1,200+ CW QSOs going into the log from this not-at-all-rare place." Then, in the early morning hours, he reported, the tide swept away all of his antennas and heavily damaged the coax feed lines.

In true ham radio fashion, Callas, a CW-only operator, improvised, fabricating vertical antennas constructed with bamboo poles wrapped with aluminum foil, since no shops on the island sell wire. He said the feed line damage is causing a high SWR, however, and he's been trying hard to repair everything before he heads off to Vietnam and Brunei.

KC0W will be on Cheung Chau Island until November 15. He plans to operate from Con Son Island, Vietnam, as 3W9CW November 17-30. V85/KC0W will be on the air from Brunei December 3-18. — Thanks to The Daily DX, KC0W

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### Radio Amateurs in Spain, Argentina Gain New and Extended Bands

11/09/2017

Spain's National Frequency Allocation Chart (CNAF) released on October 27 contained some good news for radio amateurs there. Spain now has adopted the global, secondary 60-meter Amateur Radio allocation of 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz, as agreed upon at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015.

The Radio Club of Argentina has announced that hams in Argentina soon will have privileges in the 630- and 60-meter bands, as well as extended allocations at 160, 80, and 30 meters. The new allocations, which go into effect in 90 days, are 472-479 kHz (630 meters) and 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz (60 meters).

Hams in Argentina also will be permitted to use 1,800-2,000 kHz in the 160-meter band; 3,500-4,000 kHz in the 80/75-meter band, and 10,100-10,150 kHz in the 30-meter band — the same allocations available in the US.

Information on this page was taken from the ARRL Website

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Mother, Daughter Radio Amateurs Active from Nepal

11/10/2017

Kalpana Kharel, 9N1MM, and her daughter Tejaswita (Teju), 9N1DX, are active radio amateurs from Nepal's capital of Kathmandu. Husband and father Satish is 9N1AA, the first Nepali national to be licensed there. Satish Kharel and his daughter were active during the 2015 earthquake response in Nepal.

Kalpana Kharel is believed to be the first female Amateur Radio licensee from Nepal (an American, Jiny Beyer, 9N1RA, was active in the 1970s), and her daughter is the youngest ever to obtain a ham ticket there. Both are reported operational on HF, mostly on RTTY and FT8.

Tejaswita Kharel, who attends Rato Bangala School in Patan, Nepal, said on her QRZ.com profile that she is working to improve her Morse code skills.

"I was very keen to learn about ham radio since my childhood," she said there. "I always observed RTTY QSOs of my dad. So, I am more comfortable with digital modes." QSL cards for 9N1MM and 9N1DX are said to be in production.

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### The Doctor Will See You Now!

11/09/2017

"NVIS: Near Vertical Incidence Skywave" is the topic of the new (November 9) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. Listen...and learn!

Sponsored by DX Engineering, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, QST Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on Apple iTunes, or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at Blubrry, or at Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our beginner's guide.

Information on this page was taken from the ARRL Website

**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 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**