

GARC OFFICERS

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• **ARCLITE EDITOR**

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• **TRUSTEE:**

BOB JONES

W5BJ

FROM THE PREZ BY KAYE DUNCAN

It is time for my last President's article, and again I am crunching a deadline. I guess it was just too much to expect me to change this close to the end of my term Dave!

I want to start off by thanking last month's guest speaker John Fullingim (WN5PFI) for his presentation on APRS. I also want to thank Dave Villegas (N5DAV) for taking over for me during the second part of the meeting. I was feeling kind of rough, as I am sure most of you could tell (and hear), and I really needed to get home!

The push started in February for public service events for the upcoming months. Please check out John Galvin's web page <http://www.qsl.net/n5tim/index.html> for the most up to date list that require volunteers. Also, check out the GARC web page at www.qsl.net/garc/ for the latest GARC information.

Due to various reasons, we have not had a GARC 4th Saturday breakfast in several months. So, we will resume the 4th Saturday breakfast on March 23rd and will purchase breakfast for net control operators from November through March who have not received their free breakfasts.

Finally, as I am sure you are all aware, the GARC Board elections will be held this month at the meeting on March 25th. Our election committee members consist of Garland Newman (KD5NKR) and Bob Brunskill (KC5GMZ). They have been working very hard recruiting members to run for office. At last word, we did have the training officer position still needing to be filled and other positions running unopposed. So, if there is a board position that you would be interested in running for, please contact one of the committee members to let them know. However, in order to run for office or to vote in the election, you need to have your dues paid for 2002-2003. So, if you have not done that yet, please be prepared to do that at the meeting as well.

We, I have finally come to the end of the line. There are so many people that I have to thank that helped me over the past two years, but I will save that for the meeting and hope that I do not forget anyone. As I leave office I just want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity of serving as President of the GARC for the past 2 years. Although we did not accomplish all that I would have liked to, it is my hope that I was able to make some positive contributions to the club and to amateur radio.

See you at the meeting on the March 25th. 73's, Kaye (K5AYE)

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY GARC MEETING

BY ALLEN YODER, NG5Y

7:35 Meeting brought to order by President Kaye Duncan K5AYE

Pledge of allegiance led by Don Duncan

Introductions of Officers/Members & Guest

Minutes of January meeting approved with correction of call signs

7:40 John Gavin N5TIM

Telecom Corridor Meeting Tuesday

Apr 6 Mesquite Rodeo Parade

Apr 7 MS Walk Park Cities & MS Walk Plano

Apr 13 Ms Walk Denton

Apr 27 Walk America

Further details on web page

7:46 Sky Warn School report by Kaye Duncan \$494.00 gross from sale of raffle tickets, \$294 in proceeds.

March Elections: KD5NKR Garland Newman & Bob Robert Brunskill KC5GMZ named as nominating committee for new officers. President, V-President, Training Officer, Radio Officer, positions are open.

7:50 Clay Orchard KC5MXN gave details of upcoming Star Spangled 4th. Made motion that we accept the cities donation of booth space and make arrangements to man it during the event. KM5VZ and W5DDA will co-ordinate the booth activities. The motion to accept the booth space carried.

8:00 Ed Hubbuch asked for a motion to be made to pay the club's insurance bill. Kaye Duncan made the motion and it carried.

New Members Voted in.

KD5PXO Glen

WB5WJO Jeff

KC5PGT Forrest

(Pending) Scott Smith

KD5NIP Jeff

KD5DUV Wayne

Staff Reports:

Bill Richards (Education Officer) KM5VZ announced a Tech class in the planning stages.

Ed Hubbuch (Treasurer) KC5GGZ announced the club balance not counting dues received at tonight's meeting or skywarn at \$2579.18

Bill Reynolds K8DNE reported that May 2, 2002 at 3:00 PM the Salvation Army will have a special VE TEST SESSION. VE and NON VE volunteers are needed.

8:10 There being no further business portion of the meeting ended and John Fullingim gave an excellent talk on APRS.

HAM FEST CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information</u>
April 13th, 2002	Ham Expo	Temple, TX	www.tarc.org
June 7th & 8th, 2002	Ham-Com	Arlington, TX	www.hamcom.org
July 20th, 2002	North Texas Hamfest	Sherman, TX	home1.gte.net/wb5dcu/nortex00
August 3rd, 2002	Hunt County Hamfest	Greenville, TX	www.qls.net/svara

“TO FRN OR NOT TO FRN?” THAT IS THE QUESTION

BY W.H. (BILL) REYNOLDS, K8DNE
ARRL LIAISON VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

Do you have a Universal Licensing System (ULS) number, and what is an “L” number ?????
Do you have a Commission Registration System (CORES) number, and what is an “FRN” ?????

Should you worry about either one?????

All the above are legitimate questions which should, at some time, have crossed every amateur radio operator’s mind recently. Over the past two years every radio amateur **should** have had some contact with both items. Believe it or not, you “could” be operating outside the law if you are totally unaware of the “L” number and the “FRN” number. Sounds bad, but not really. I will explain the steps that every radio amateur must accomplish to get their FCC records corrected and updated.

First, the story as it unfolded: (all dates are approximate.)

Around August 16, 1999, the FCC opened its doors to Amateur Radio applicants and the new Universal Licensing System (ULS). Many articles in the Ham magazines advised ALL amateurs to register their Tax Identification Number (TIN) in the ULS structure. At that time, the applicant would receive an “L” number. This was a long number beginning with the letter “L”. After the “test run” with the amateur community, the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) opened up the ULS to all licensees, commercial and public services.

On April 29, 2000, the FCC opened the ULS to Internet filers. All radio amateurs were instructed, via various publications, to register their social security number (TIN) via the Internet.

Around September 2000, the FCC announced the creation of the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES). The new system was to be streamlined and to eventually replace the entire ULS system. In reality, ULS never really worked as the FCC expected it to work. The CORES system was to assign a new 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN), which would replace the License ID Number (LIN) assigned by the ULS system for WTB licensees.

On, or about, January 15, 2001, the FCC mailed a letter to ALL ULS REGISTERED amateurs, which included their new FRN, which was automatically assigned in preparation for the discontinuation of the ULS system.

NOW, here is “the other half of the story”:

Firstly, only about 6-10 percent of the amateur community took the FCC seriously and registered their TIN and received their “L” number assigned by the ULS process. Further, very few amateurs remember the mailing of the letter from the FCC assigning the radio amateur their FRN number. Needless to say, that letter SHOULD have been filed with their license papers.

Secondly, the FCC did, in fact, announce that they were shutting down the ULS and switching totally to CORES on December 31, 2001. Thusly, as I write this article, the FCC does NOT know you by your callsign any more. You either have an FRN or the FCC does not know you exist. In other words, if you have ANY business with the FCC (modifications, renewals, etc), they will not know who you are, without the now infamous FRN.

Obtaining your FRN:

Get your handy Internet browser cranked up and get ready to have some “fun” on the FCC web site. Bring up the FCC web site at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and choose the “REGISTER CORES/CALLSIGN” icon. The next screen will have a field which says “If you are not registered with the FCC”. Choose “Register now” and click “Continue”. The next screen will be the “Entity Type Selection” screen. Choose “An individual” and click on “Continue”. The next screen will be the “Register Individual Entity” screen. Keep following the screen instructions until the process is completed. Print any screen that contains numbers that correspond to the “L” number and the FRN. Remember your passwords as entered. File these prints with your License (FCC Form 660).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**Updating your call sign/ASR information:**

Bring back the FCC web site at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and again choose the "REGISTER CORES/CALLSIGN" icon. The next screen will have a two item field which says "If you are already registered with the FCC". Choose "Update call sign/ASR Information" and click "Continue". On the next screen, enter your newly acquired FRN (no dashes) and your password. Click "Continue". Read as much of the next page as you wish, but the first bullet instruction is what you need. You should click on "Enter Call Signs". You will be presented with a screen that will allow you to enter up to 100 call signs. Needless to say, enter your ONE call sign in block #1. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Submit". You have now "married" your new FRN and your call sign.

Upon completion of the FCC CORES registration, wait two or three days and then check your call sign on the ARRL's license look-up page <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fcclook.php3> via the web. You should see your Licensee ID number and your FRN. Print this page and file it with your FCC Form 660 (License). This will insure that you have two copies of the numbers (if you completed the copies from the last two paragraphs) and that they are filed with your license. Checking the FCC database via the ARRL lookup page will insure that your information was, in fact, recorded into the FCC database. You are now ready to handle any updates/renewals/modifications that are necessary via the FCC internet web site. REMEMBER that you are in violation of the Code of Federal Regulations (Part 97, Subpart "A", Section 97.23) pertaining to Amateur Radio if you have changed your residence address and have NOT notified the FCC within 30 days of the change. There are, in fact, some folks on our club roster that have not met this particular CFR requirement.

In closing, I would like to thank my two "guinea pigs" who registered their call signs using the above instructions. Both Jack Hunter, WA5W, and his lovely wife Barbara, WA5X, registered their call signs with very little problem. I would like to further thank Garland Newman, KD5NKR, who presented another problem about passwords, and investigated how the system works, when you have no password or have forgotten your password.

Forgotten your CORES password???? Not to worry!! I will cover missing passwords next month.

Author: W.H. (Bill) Reynolds, K8DNE
ARRL Liaison Volunteer Examiner
03-14-2002

2002 GARC ELECTION BALLOT

President: Wayne Williams, WT5J OR _____

Vice-President: James Schroeder, KC5EOR OR _____

Secretary: Allen Yoder, NG5Y OR _____

Treasurer: Ed Hubbach, KC5GGZ OR _____

Education Officer: Chris Engleman, KC5COF OR _____

Comm. Officer: Jacob Schroeder, AC5NA OR _____

ARCLite Editor: David Kaun, KD5LGU OR _____

As submitted by Garland Newman, KD5NKR and Bob Brunskill, KC5GMZ.



HT ACCESSORIES: TOYS OR NECESSITIES?

BY GERRY CRENSHAW, WD4BIS

HT accessories, speaker/mikes, headsets, earphones, amplifiers and antenna extensions: Sooner or later after buying that HT, we start to look at the accessories offered by a number of different vendors. The speaker/mike is one of those items that most of us come to purchase.

The speaker mike remotes the functions of the speaker, PTT key and microphone to a small microphone that we can usually clip on to our shirt. The radio itself still rides the place of honor on the belt but relieves us of the burden of having to remove the radio from the belt every time we need to transmit. In many cases this is a great accessory because it frees the hands and saves wear and tear on the radio. Depending on the price and vendor that you choose the speaker mike may also have optional features such as Keypad and control functions. These devices work well in almost all situations except for those where we have a high noise environment such as being posted next to the bandstand or public address system.

Headsets tend work better in these high noise situations because of the proximity of the mike and speaker to the user's ear and mouth. Depending on what you buy these devices can come equipped with a VOX circuit (Voice Operated Switch). Use this option with care. Every time you speak the VOX keys the radio. In a high noise area the noise itself can key the radio and keep it keyed. Care needs to be taken to boom mike away from the mouth when speaking to other people. You may not want to transmit that conversation.

Earphones for radios and speaker mikes are another option for a high noise environment. MFJ speaker mikes come equipped with a jack on the bottom of the speaker mike body. A simple earphone from Radio Shack can be plugged into this jack for privacy or convenience. MFJ makes the ear jack on the bottom of the mike the same size diameter as the ear jack on the radio you are attaching it to. Although the simple earphones are only about \$3.00 the earphones are stocked with two standard size jacks, 3/32 and 1/8 inches. Bring the speaker mike with you when buying the earphone so you won't get the wrong size (don't ask me how I know this).

A Linear amplifier for the HT is another option we all look at depending on the power we may need to be running. For most of them 2 to 5 watts of input gives an output of 30 watts or better. These run between \$140.00 and \$500.00 depending on band, mode and model. There are dual band amplifier models available now that match the dual band capability of the handi-talkie. Watch for input/output configurations on these amps as you may need an external duplexer to make it work with your handi talkie. Duplexers run in the \$30.00 to \$50.00 Range.

Another nice accessory for the HT is the coax extension for the rubber duck antenna. These are available for car or person. The Car extensions have a metal clip that attaches to the roll down window of the car. This puts the antenna outside of the car and makes for better communications. The extensions for person have a clip that will attach to a hat or headset. Here this raises the antenna above the body so the antenna has an unobstructed transmit radius.

All of these accessories have their value and their place. Chose them and purchase them with care. The headset for example is not everyone. Many find the weight uncomfortable and the VOX unwieldy. Regardless of what you choose they can enhance operation for a public service event.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6, 2001 - Mesquite Rodeo Parade - The Ham Association of Mesquite (HAM) finds itself in need of radio operators. On Saturday April 6th, the 47th annual Mesquite Rodeo Parade is scheduled. We can also use those folks that have an interest in amateur radio and do yet have their license or just interested in helping with their time. On April 6th we gather between 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the corner of Newsom and Carver in Mesquite for our assignments. Our part is usually completed between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Any interested folks can sign-up by sending an e-mail to [Rob Ashmore at rashmore@swbell.net](mailto:Rob.Ashmore@swbell.net) or [Wayne Baird, AA5NE](mailto:Wayne.Baird@aa5ne.net). On the HAM Tuesday on-air net, open to all licensed amateurs, we will take names of those that can volunteer a few hours of their time. The net is on Tuesday evening on the HAM repeater at 145.310 (-) with a PL of 162.2 at 8:00 p.m. This repeater will be used for talk-in on Saturday morning.

April 7, 2002 - MS Walks - Sunday MS Walk in Dallas and Plano, Texas. To volunteer for the **Dallas** event, contact John Galvin, N5TIM, n5tim@arrl.net or use the [Easy Sign-up Form](#). To volunteer for the **Plano** walk, contact Jonathan Sennetti, K5VX at k5vx@arrl.net or use the [Easy Sign-up Form](#)

April 13, 2002 - MS Walks - MS Walk in Denton and Waco, Texas. For information on this event, contact John Galvin, N5TIM, n5tim@arrl.net. Still need amateur radio coordinators for these events.

April 27, 2002 - WalkAmerica 2002 - March of Dimes walk at White Rock Lake, Dallas, Texas. Would like to have a ham photographer work with us this year. To volunteer for this event, contact John Galvin, N5TIM, n5tim@arrl.net or use the [Easy Sign-up Form](#).

May 4 & 5, 2002 - The Bennigan's MS 150 - MS Society's annual Red River Challenge 150 mile bike ride. James Marple, KB5ZDG can be contacted at jmarple@dhc.net to sign-up and/or get additional information. [Easy Sign-up Form](#) - MS150 [Volunteer Information](#).

July 4th, 5th & 6th, 2002 - Star Spangled 4th - The yearly patriotic event that takes place in downtown Garland celebrating the July 4th holiday will again be our time to shine. Operators are needed to fill positions including firewatch, shadows, net operators, concert area and general area crowd control. The event in 2002 plans to be one of the biggest ever and will span across 3 days of festivities and end on Sunday with the carnival only. Sign-up for positions as choice slots and times go quick by registering your e-mail with Clay Orchard (KC5MXN) at kc5mxn1@juno.com. Although the scheduled concert performers have not been released, we are told that July 4th will be country, July 5th will be Christian and July 6th will be pop with fireworks on all three nights. Dates and time slots are noted below:

July 4th:	10am to 3pm	3pm to 7pm	7pm to 12 midnight
July 5th:	12 noon to 3pm	3pm to 7pm	7pm to 12 midnight
July 6th:	10am to 3pm	3pm to 7pm	7pm to 12 midnight

We will also have a GARC booth to distribute general amateur radio information and give demonstrations. If interested in volunteering for a booth time slot, please contact Bill Richards (KM5VZ) at km5vz@arrl.net

Please visit www.qsl.net/n5tim for all the latest event information.



Garland Amateur Radio Club Application for (circle one): New Membership or Renewal

Date: _____

Call Sign:	License Class (Circle one): Novice Tech Tech+ General Adv Extra
First Name:	Last Name
Street Address	
City:	State: Zip Code:
Home Phone:	Work Phone (Optional):
Pager # (optional):	E-Mail (Optional):

General Information

(circle your response)

Are you a paid member of the ARRL? YES NO

Are you a RACES member? YES NO

Are you interested in Public Service Events? YES NO

What are your areas of Interest/Expertise? _____

Membership Type:

	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb
New or Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$11.25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3.75
Senior (65 or over)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.50
Each Add'l Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3.75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1.25

Additional Family Member Info (put additional family members, if any, on the back of this sheet):

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class: _____

Name: _____ Call: _____ License Class: _____

Payment Type:

Cash Amount: \$ _____

Check Amount: \$ _____ Check Number: _____

Please make checks payable to: Garland Amateur Radio Club and mail or give to:

**GARC Treasurer
1027B West Austin Street
Garland, TX 75040**

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APRIL 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 GARC Info Net - 7:30	2	3 Garland & Rowlett Siren Test	4 Garland RACES	5	6 Mesquite Rodeo Parade
7 MS Walks Dallas & Plano	8 GARC Info Net - 7:30	9	10	11 Garland RACES	12	13 MS Walks Denton & Waco
14	15 GARC Info Net - 7:30	16	17	18 Garland RACES	19	20
21	22 GARC Meeting - 7:00	23	24	25 VE Testing Garland RACES	26	27 MOD WA '02 GARC Breakfast
28	29 GARC Info Net - 7:30	30				

SAME NET TIME, SAME NET FREQUENCY

The Following nets occur on a regular basis throughout the month.

Every Monday night at 7:30 PM. local time except for meeting nights the GARC conducts a good news/info net on 146.66 MHZ

RACES holds nets on Every Thursday Night at 9:00 pm local time on either the 146.66 or the 147.24 repeater. In addition to these nets there are also additional RACES nets held at 8:00 pm local time on the first and third Sunday of the month. These Sunday night nets are held on the 146.88

repeater. Only those stations who are authorized by the FCC or the regional Races authority may transmit on a Races frequency during Races nets unless there is a threat to life or property.

145.31 8:00PM Tuesdays
Ham Association Of Mesquite holds a good news/info net

146.94 8:00PM Wednesdays
FT Worth holds a info/swap net.

147.18 8:00PM Thursdays
Plano ARK holds a good news/info net

GARLAND SIREN TEST

The Garland early warning sirens are tested by the city the first Wednesday of each month at noon, weather permitting. Tests are generally conducted on the GARC repeater at 146.660Mhz with 600Khz negative offset.

Amateur radio operators wishing to help with these siren tests should contact Bob Jones, W5BJ if interested in helping out.

GARC GENERAL INFORMATION

Repeaters:

The GARC operates two open repeaters for its members and for all local or visiting Amateur Radio Operators: Two meters: **146.66 (-)** and 70 Cmeters: **442.70 (+)**

Voice Mail:

For late-breaking news or to leave the club a message, call our 24-hour voice-mail line at **(972) 272-4499**.

Information Net:

GARC Information Net: held every Monday at 7:30PM on 146.66 (except for meeting nights and holidays). The net features current events, "swap shop", and a technical information exchange. All area hams are encouraged to check in. All members are encouraged to volunteer to be net control for this net. Contact the GARC communications officer, Mark Durbin (*kc5gng@qsl.net*), if you are interested.

Internet:

Information on the GARC can also be found on the world wide web address below:

<http://www.qsl.net/garc/>

The web site includes a map to the monthly meetings, classes, links to local public service events, and other items of interest to the hams in the Garland area.

Newsletter:

The Arclite is published monthly for the members of the Garland Amateur Radio Club. The contents of this newsletter are copyrighted the date of publication, but may

be reprinted without permission in any Amateur Radio Publication provided proper credit is given and the motive is the advancement of amateur radio and not for profit.

The deadline for Arclite materials is the 2nd Monday of each month. If you have any informative or educational articles that you would like to see included in this newsletter, or if you have items to be included in the GARC calendar, please send it to the Arclite editor.

Arclite Editor, 1027-B West Austin St.,
Garland, TX 75040

or emailed to the Arclite Editor at kd5lgu@arrl.net

Membership:

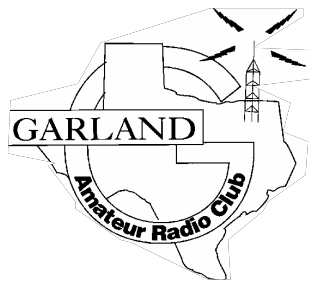
Membership forms are available at the GARC monthly meetings and on the GARC web site. Once the membership form and dues are submitted, new members are voted in at the next GARC monthly meeting.

The GARC membership roster is distributed to GARC members only and is included twice a year in the Arclite. It is not to be used for any commercial purposes.

To submit changes to the GARC roster (such as change of address, updated phone numbers, license upgrade, etc), send them to the GARC secretary, Allen Yoder (NG5Y) at ng5y@atbi.com.



Garland Amateur Radio Club
Emergency Communications Center (ECC)
1027 B West Austin Street
Garland, TX 75040



Please Rush!!!

Reminder

GARC 4th Saturday Breakfast - Grandy's at 9:00 am (Garland Rd & Austin St.)