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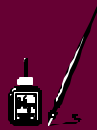
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THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

By Wayne Williams

WT5J



Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone made it through the winter ice storm. I sure hated to cancel the Feb. meeting, but we felt that the risk was just too high. The road conditions were getting bad and the forecast didn't give much hope for any improvement. To all those who were prepared to give presentations, we wish to thank you for your understanding of the situation and we look forward to hearing each of your presentations at a later date.

Please don't forget that elections are coming up this month. The Nominating Committee is made up of: Garland Newman-W5IDN, Bob Brunskill-KC5GMZ and Al Kinnard Jr. AD5AZ. If you would like to run for office, please let them know. All offices are open to the membership, so if you want to help the GARC, this is a good way to do it.

It has been a pleasure being your president this past year. To those of you who have supported me along the way, I extend by appreciation for your help and friendship. I also want to thank the board members for the super jobs that they have done for the Garland Amateur Radio Club.

I ask that each member try to take an active part in the club, in order to keep it one of the best Amateur Radio Clubs in the country. The GARC is looked up to in the community, and as a member, you should be proud to be a part of it.

That's it for now, and I hope to see all of you at the Mar. meeting.

Till then,
God Bless, De WT5J,
Wayne G. Williams

Next GARC Meeting will be Mar. 24th 2003 @ 7:30 PM

Program:

Officer Elections

Food for Thought, vol 3, #3

While slurping coffee in the shack, I paused to reflect on my last Food for thought. Little did any of us know what was to transpire just days after the article was sent to Allan. The topic was commitment and within days of the writing we had an awful example of just what was meant. February 1, 2003, a day that most of us will never forget.

As amateur radio operators, we were able to become part of the solution. The cry for help was heard around the country, and many "HAMs" responded as they were able. Those of you who were able to travel to the scene of the destruction can and have related the work that was preformed by many operators, coming from different disciplines all with the same attitude. They were there to help. No one was concerned about if you were RACES or ARES. The main theme was how were you equipped and how long were you able to work in the field.

As we all have heard, via various reports, the "HAM's" received great amounts of praise and accolades. The word "profession" was used in most of the comments that came from other agencies that were involved with the recovery. The ability to provide communications in areas that defied all the high tech communication systems is after all one of the things that amateur radio is all about. It just helps to prove the idea, that "HAM" radio is not dead, nor is it replaceable by high dollar technology. For those of you who were able to travel to the recovery site, I extend my strongest admiration. It was with some mental anguish that I was not able to be with you on site. I was able to monitor, via Echo link and K5jd's repeater, the activities of those of you who were there. I was more than proud to be able to say that I knew all of you that were there. Visitors to my shack during the ordeal were more that impressed with your commitment, and your gifts of time and funds. Some of those are looking into the idea of joining our hobby. As you can see, commitment is not limited to RACES or ARES, but to those who care about their fellow citizens.

This month is election month in our clubs calendar. It is the time for each of us to voice our desires for the upcoming years leadership. Take the time to be at the meeting, look at the slate of candidates, and make your selection. Remember; if you do not vote, you should not feel free to complain if you do not like the out come. If you believe that you can do it better, then get on the slate. There is much work for the club to do in our community, and it takes a lot of time and energy. All of the work can not be left up to the board to do. They will need your help and support. I know that some of you are thinking, there goes that old gray head, preaching to the choir again. You are right, but while new members are always needed, some has to remember that those already in the flock, need to feel that they are wonderful as well.

In July, we will once again provide communications support for the City of Garland's Star Spangled 4th of July celebration. As most of you already know, it takes a lot of people hours to get the job done, and I have no doubt that once again you will step up to the plate and be there. We are looking at 210 time slots and roughly 760 plus hours of support.

Just the thoughts of this old gray head, still wondering what his coffee with taste like in 20 years.
KC5MXN - 73's -

Hamvention® 2003

Preserving Tradition...Providing Distinction

Hamvention Hopes to Call Hara Arena Home a While Longer

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 6, 2003--Although 2003 marks the last year of a five-year contract to hold Hamvention at Hara Arena, organizers hope to keep the show there for the indefinite future. Rumors crop up each year--and this has been no exception--that this year's event will be the last to take place at the venerable venue that's served as Hamvention's home since 1964. Negotiations on a new contract to retain Hara for future shows remain in the offing. Billed as "the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering and trade show," Hamvention 2003 takes place May 16-18.

"We haven't made any decisions yet," Hamvention Production Manager Garry Matthews, KB8GOL, said this week. "We want to get this year's show under our belt and then renegotiate the contract." Matthews, who's been producing Hamvention for about three decades, predicted that the current contract to hold the hamfest at Hara will be the last five-year agreement.



At the same time, Matthews said, there are no plans to go elsewhere, nor is Hamvention under any threat or pressure to relocate. "There's nothing planned to move," he said. "But," he conceded, "we've looked at alternative locations in case something happens. Anything could happen to Hara."

Matthews says the sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association has explored several other possible locations for Hamvention, which has quietly dropped "Dayton" from the show's official name. That's in part because Hara Arena is no longer within Dayton city limits but in Trotwood--an Ohio municipality in its own right. The change also leaves open the possibility--remote as it is--that Hamvention might one day be held in an altogether different place.

Among other sites, Hamvention has at one point or another considered the Nutter Center--where the Hamvention banquet has been held in the past--as well as various fairgrounds in the Greater Dayton area. "None of these will serve the purpose that Hara does," Matthews said. "None of the other venues will support the show at its current size." Hamvention is the only show that makes use of the entire facility, and Hara Arena has been expanded over the years solely to accommodate Hamvention's needs.

Speaking of size, Hamvention reported that attendance for last year's 50th anniversary event was 24,832--down about 5 percent from 2001's crowd of 26,151. The 2002 number marked the second year in a row that Hamvention's attendance had dipped.

Attendance climbed to 28,804 in 2000, the year of the ARRL National Convention at Dayton. Matthews has said that any crowd larger than 28,000 starts to push the envelope as far as Hara Arena is concerned--especially the human comfort factor. Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33,669--before the event date changed from April to May.

As for continued use of Hara Arena, Matthews points out that the building has never been sold, is not for sale now and never has been. He anticipates talks with Hara's long-time owners--the Wampler family--to get under way around June 1. "We'll evaluate the show after June 1, and we hope to improve some things," he said, without revealing any details. He expects the next agreement for the use of Hara Arena to be for no

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GARC MEETING MINUTES

February, 2003



Submitted by:
Allen Yoder (NG5Y)
Arclite Editor, GARC

(Continued from page 3)

longer than two years.

In the meantime, he's pouring his energy into the arrangements for this year's show, but, he reports, things have been slower to come together in terms of advance sales to visitors and vendors. Matthews chalks it up to unfortunate uncertainty over war in the Middle East and terrorism. "And it's not just us," he added. "If we go to war, people might not want to travel."

"It's just the times we're living in," he said. "There's nothing to panic about, but it's tougher this year."

Some changes already have been announced for the 2003 Hamvention. Matthews notes that the 2003 Hamvention will replace its annual banquet and after-dinner at the entertainment at the Nutter Center with a more low-key award winners' reception at Hara Arena Saturday evening. A few layout changes also are on the table for the 2003 show that include "some bigger vendors" in the outside exhibits area--more commonly known as "the flea market." One economy begun last year was to sell show programs instead of giving them away. Hamvention blamed that change on slower advertising sales and higher printing costs. Even after years of dealing with them, Matthews says he finds the annual spate of rumors irksome. "There are an awful lot of rumors," he said. "We don't know where they come from." The rumors have even prompted Hamvention to include the Hara Arena issue among the frequently asked questions on its Web

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site.

"I have heard a rumor that this is the last Hamvention® at Hara Arena. Is that true?" the question reads. "No," says the reply. "The Dayton Hamvention® has signed a contract with Hara Arena for use of the facility through 2003."

Between now and show time, Matthews says Hamvention will--among other moves--boost its advertising and promotion to counteract the sluggish advance sales. "We're going to have a good show," he predicted confidently.



Reprinted Courtesy ARRL

March 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 GARC INFO NET 7:30pm 146.66	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 GARC INFO NET 7:30pm 146.66	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 GARC INFO NET 7:30pm 146.66	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 GARC MEETING	25	26	27 VEC TESTING	28	29
30	31 GARC INFO NET 7:30pm 146.66					

Upcoming Events

All public service events are open to any licensed amateur with a desire to participate! No event experience? Lets us know and we can team you with an experienced amateur to show you the ropes.

April 5, 2003 - MS Walk Plano - Saturday MS Walk in Plano, Texas. To volunteer for the **Plano** walk, contact Jonathan Sennetti, K5VX at k5vx@arrl.net or use the Easy Sign-up Form to sign-up.

April 6, 2003 - MS Walk Dallas - Sunday MS Walk in Dallas, Texas. To volunteer for the **Dallas** walk, contact John Galvin, N5TIM, n5tim@arrl.net or use the Easy Sign-up Form.

Note: Set your clocks on Saturday night for daylight savings time, "Spring Foward."

April 26, 2003 - WalkAmerica 2003 - March of Dimes walk at White Rock Lake, Dallas, Texas. To volunteer for this event, contact John Galvin, N5TIM, n5tim@arrl.net or use the Easy Sign-up Form. (Walk Site Map)

May 3 & 4, 2003 - MS150 Red River Challenge - Annual two-day non-competitive 150 mile cycling adventure that challenges riders of all ages, levels and abilities. Amateur radio operators are needed to provide the critical communication needs that this event must have to succeed. Hundreds of area hams have volunteered over the past 14 years, and **you are needed again!** Volunteer for both days, or choose Saturday or Sunday. 2 meters will be the primary mode of communication, but we plan to use APRS and possibly NVIS. Coordinators for those modes are needed. Who knows, if an ATV guru will step up, we could put ourselves on the map with ATV use as well!

Contact KB5ZDG, James Marple, for more info at j.marple@verizon.net. Register now and make your lodging or camping plans ASAP

May 10, 2003 - "Journey of Hope" Bike Rally - CANCELLED

Contact is Doug Kilgore, KD5OUG, Ph 972-231-8539 or kd5oug@arrl.net.

July 2-5, 2002 - Star Spangled Fourth - The premier event in Garland, Texas is on again this year. Plans are mostly set and assignments are being made. Clay needs a number of communications volunteers. Times for July 2-3 are evening only and July 3-5 from noon to midnight. To join the team, contact Clay Orchard - KC5MXN .



email addresses for event coordinators.

Karl Meyer, N5UO1 - n5uoi@aol.com
 Bob Jones, W5BJ - bobj1@airmail.net
 Clay Orchard, KC5MXN - mcorch@juno.com
 Bill Fell, KK5PB - kk5pb@arrl.net
 Bob Bailey, N5ITN - n5itn@attbi.com
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 Jonathan Sennetti, K5VX - sennetti@nortelnetworks.com
 Scott Hamilton, KK5PP - kk5pp@arrl.net



April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7245 9:00 am		1	2	3	4	5 BELTON (Ham Expo)
6	7 GARC INFO NET 7:30pm 146.66	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 GARC INFO NET 7:30pm 146.66	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 GARC INFO NET 7:30pm 146.66	22	23	24 VEC TESTING	25	26
27	28 GARC MEETING	29	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

Garl and 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 Jacob Schroeder, AC5NA 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, Jacob Schroeder (jschroeder@characterlinknet), 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 ng5y@arrl.net

Membership:

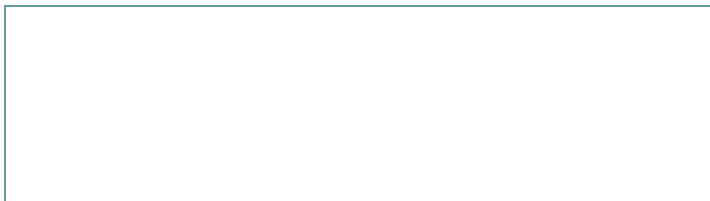
Membership forms are available at the GARC monthly meetings and on the GARC web site. Once the membership form and dues are submitted, new members are voted in at the next GARC monthly meeting.

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, Kaye Duncan (K5AYE) at kaye.duncan@attbi.com.



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



Please Rush!!!

Reminder

GARC elections are coming soon, contact an officer for details...