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THE PRESIDENT'S PEN
BY KAYE DUNCAN
K5AYE



I hope that everyone who attended last month's GARC auction had a great time. For those of us who had a slightly lighter wallet when we left, I hope that you are enjoying your new acquisitions. Also, I want to thank Clay Orchard (KC5MXN) for acting as our auctioneer during the sale. The November meeting on the 24th ought to be an exciting one and I hope that you will all plan on attending. A representative from the Plano ARC will be giving us a presentation on their Plano Balloon Festival and the logistics in running a net during the event. So, I hope to see you there.

I have a couple pieces of business to discuss with you today. First, I want to remind you that we need volunteers to run the GARC Info Net starting in 2004. Net operations are now only the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month so only 2 evenings are required. Secondly, now is the time we need to start thinking about the GARC Board elections in March. We will have at least a couple of positions (Vice President & Treasurer) that we will need candidates for. I would like to put together a nominating committee as soon as possible for this election. If you would be willing to serve the club in either (or both) capacity please contact me at k5aye@comcast.net to volunteer or see me at the meeting on Monday night. Finally, there are still quite a few events for the remainder of the year that we need volunteers for. This includes the City of Garland's "Christmas On The Square" in December. We want to make sure we have plenty of volunteers for that event so if you can help please contact Clay Orchard. We want to continue our reputation of a "Public Service" club so check out John Galvin's web page at www.qsl.net/n5tim/ for the entire list and the event coordinators.

I want to remind you about the GARC Christmas Party on December 15th starting at 7pm. It will be held again this year at the Freeman Heights Baptist Church on Garland Rd between Walnut and Buckingham. The club will provide assorted meats, rolls, and drinks. All we ask is that you bring either a side dish or dessert to the festivities so I hope that you will make plans to attend.

Hope to see you on Monday. Until then.....73's, Kaye

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.

Nov. 27, 2003 - Turkey Trot - Benefiting the Dallas YMCA. Starting at City Hall Plaza for 8 Mile Race and 3 Mile Fun Run/Walk. Contact Richard Bartlett, KE6LOU- ke6lou@arrl.net, or 972-741-8485. Event Info: <http://www.thetrot.com/>

December 4, 2003 - Christmas on the Square - The City of Garland is adding a new element to its annual holiday celebration on the City's historic downtown square. Christmas on the Square is set for Thursday, December 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., featuring a full-length lighted Christmas parade. To join the team, contact Clay Orchard - KC5MXN.

December 14, 2003 - Run the Rock - Dallas' premier running event. This annual 27 mile run is one of the qualifying event for the New York Marathon. Usually about 60+ amateurs are needed to cover this event. Half marathon added this year. To volunteer for this event, contact Bob Jones, W5BJ, W5BJ@arrl.net or John Galvin, N5TIM, n5tim@arrl.net or use the [Easy Sign-up Form](#). Check out the White Rock Marathon web site runtherock.com for route map and other info.

January 24, 2004 - Dino Dash - Yearly walk, run in Dallas at Fair Park. Contact is Richard Bartlett, KE6LOU at ke6lou@arrl.net or (972) 741-8485. Additional information can be found at http://www.qsl.net/ke6lou/dino_dash.htm and [Discovery/Dino Dash](#).



email addresses for event coordinators.

Karl Meyer, N5UOI - 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
 Pamela Green, W5PAM - stauros@onramp.net
 John Sanders, AB5ZR - john.sanders@mci.com
 John Galvin, N5TIM - n5tim@arrl.net
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 Bob Ashmore, KA5SNM - rashmore@mindspring.com
 Jim Dye, N5JZ - N5jz@aol.com
 Jonathan Sennetti, K5VX - sennetti@nortelnetworks.com
 Scott Hamilton, KK5PP - kk5pp@arrl.net

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 27, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm with pledge of allegiance and member and visitor introductions. 2 new hams were recognized; KD5ZVK and KD5ZKD.

Allen Yoder had surgery and is recovering fine at home.

Carrye Lethgo had to go out of town on a family emergency.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved as published in the ArcLite

Jamboree on the Air at the ECC was a success. 30-35 scouts showed up and made 2 meter and HF contacts.

NBC5I Expo had a good turnout and interest was shown in amateur radio emergency communications.

Operators are still needed for the GARC Info Nets for December through February on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.

Brad Penn (KD5ZAT) was voted in as a new GARC member.

John Galvin briefed the membership on upcoming events. He also told us that the city of Garland was awarded by the NOAA as a storm ready municipality.

Volunteers are needed for the GARC Board nominating committee. 2 board positions are going to be opening up next year; Vice President and Treasurer.

A reminder about the GARC Christmas Pot Luck Social on December 15th at 7pm at Freeman Heights Baptist Church on No. Garland. The club will provide meat, rolls, and drinks. Members need to bring a side dish or dessert.

Education Officer Garland Newman (W5IDN) – A Technician class will be starting on November 15th. VE testing will be on the 3rd Thursday in December instead of the 4th and the class will be finished in time to attend that test session. There will be no VE testing in November.

Secretary Carrye Lethgo (KD5RFB) was not present. – If you have an address change please submit to her via email.

ArcLite Editor Allen Yoder (NG5Y) was not present

Comm. Officer Ralph Brown (KA5KVF) – There is a new toilet and power supply in the ECC

Treasurer Ed Hubbuch (KC5GZZ) – There is \$3,452.42 in the club account and all bills are paid.

Vice President James Schroeder (KC5EOR) – November meeting is pending, December is the Christmas Party, and January is Jim Haynie.

President Kaye Duncan (K5AYE) – Told membership about GARC member Lee Braum; has sold his house and has moved into apartment in Richardson and Bill Lewis (K5GHR) was sick, in hospital for a month, it was determined he cannot live alone and has had to be moved into a nursing home in Wylie. The GARC is keeping his ham gear at his request till further notice. Please send cards of encouragement.

15 minute break

After the break it was announced that Jacob Schoreder (AC5NA) would not be able to continue as the siren test coordinator for Garland and Sasche. A replacement coordinator is needed. Contact John Galvin or Kaye Duncan if you are interested.

GARC Auction took place with Clay Orchard as the auctioneer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

NHP #2: That First Antenna

Gerry Crenshaw, WD4BIS, Garland, Texas
Last Updated April 1996

An antenna for your station is probably your best investment after you have purchased a radio. But how do you choose an antenna, What are these letters after the gain number? What's the difference between dBd and dBi? What's the difference between a beam and an Omni directional antenna? Should you buy or build an antenna?

Choosing an Antenna

Your first consideration for an antenna is space. Take a good look at the area you plan to put that first antenna and have a good idea of large an antenna you can accommodate. Look for power lines or other obstructions prior to picking an antenna. For those of us in urban areas, you need to be aware of antenna restrictions or height restrictions. For those of us in the Garland area, the restriction is 35 foot. As I interpret this ordinance, that's from the ground to the top of the antenna.

Antenna Gain

It is not simply enough to buy the antenna with the highest gain number, but an understanding of how manufactures define gain in an antenna is important. The are two references used by most manufactures when defining antenna gain: dBd and dBi. Gain referenced to a dipole is listed as dBd. Gain referenced to an isotropic source is listed as dBi. Of the two, gain listed as dBd is generally the better antenna What is an isotropic source you might ask? If you pick an imaginary point in space and from that point all of your power is transmitted, that is an isotropic source. Gain referenced to this point is dBi. When gain figures are listed as dBd, they are using a 1/4 wave dipole cut for the center frequency of the band of interest as the reference. Be careful when looking at a catalog. I was looking through a Cushcraft catalog as I was writing this and some antennas are listed dBd and some are listed dBi on the same page.

Beam Antennas Vs Omni-Directional Antennas

The Omni directional antenna puts you signal into the air in all directions with about the same signal strength. The beam antenna forces the signal travel in a single direction A good choice for that first antenna would be an Omni-directional. They are usually not to large, easy to construct, easy to mount and give good coverage. This type of antenna will get you on the air quickly and easily.

The beam type of antenna has some hidden pitfalls. Yes they have more gain but are larger, harder to mount, come in box with a hundred loose parts and you will need some kind of rotator to get the best use out of beam. Remember that a beam or Yagi antenna is very directional by design, you will need some kind of steering device to get the best use out of this kind of antenna. If you cant reach you local repeater with an Omni, then go to a beam.

For those of us who want to use packet radio, An Omni is a good choice here. With an Omni, other stations can Digipeat (Digital Repeat) through you. If you have a beam up and the station wanting to Digipeat through you is to the back or side of your antenna, it might make for poor re-transmittal of the data.

Buying or Building That First Antenna

Antennas are mostly just wire. For a first construction project, this is what most of us attempt first. Dimensions and detailed construction drawings for antennas such as 1/4 Wave Ground Planes, Dipoles or a Verticals can be found in almost any Amateur Radio Publication.

Building an antenna is usually a rewarding experience. Making that first contact on an antenna you built make all the cutting, measuring, drilling and soldering worthwhile. There are several beam antennas that can be built such as a Quad-Yagi, that can be built for a few dollars out lumber and wire that have excellent performance. Larger antennas beam antennas as found in ARRL handbook require specific sizes of aluminum tubing and the dimensions are usually very specific, down to the 64th of an inch, and should be attempted only after some experience has been acquired building other antennas.

That first antenna is going to be the benchmark that you reference all other antennas you might try. Remember that if you hear the other station you can probably talk to them. Mount the antenna with care and please be careful. Something else to remember is that although an antenna is a thing of beauty to us it might not be to you neighbors. Think about starting off small and working up to something else larger after they have gotten use to the idea of having an Amateur Radio Operator in the neighborhood.

73's and GL
Gerry WD4BIS



DECEMBER 2003

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

SAME NET TIME, SAME NET FREQUENCY

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

Every 1st, 3rd Monday nights 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 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 1st, 3rd 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 (j Schroeder@charecterlink.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 ng5y@arrl.net

Membership:

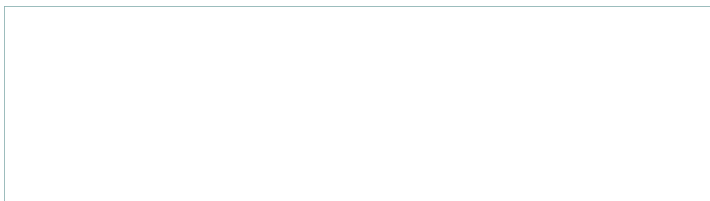
Membership forms are available at the GARC monthly meetings and on the GARC web site. Once the membership form and dues are submitted, new members are voted in at the next GARC monthly meeting.

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

We need your articles, ideas and suggestions for inclusion in the Arclite...