



THE ARCLITE

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The President's Pen

By Allen Yoder, NG5Y

Well we had a very busy June but what else is new? Well your President of the GARC found a job. The job caused him to miss the Board Meeting. But I understand that Ralph, Clay, Garland and Bill, attended. They discussed helping the Winston School Solar Car Team members get their ham licenses. My new job will be migrating to the 3rd shift so I will be able to continue with functions at the club. I will need to leave by 9:00 PM so that I can report for work. I understand that Wayne Williams will be the guest speaker at the next meeting and I believe he will be speaking on how to join and use DX groups in the chase of 'paper' for your ham shack. Since I was not at the meeting I might be in error.

I think we had a very successful Field Day this year. We even ended up on the Channel Five TV News, and were recognized by the State Senate. I think we had many more CW contacts than we had voice qso's. I want to thank everyone who came out and especially all those who put in their time and gifts to make it a success.

There has been some talk about putting a 'PL' tone on the 146.66 repeater. Some of this is because the VHF society itself is requiring this of coordinated repeaters. Some of this talk is because of the noise that can sometimes be heard on the repeater. This noise probably comes from a mixture of new RF pollution in and around the hospital and some ducting from Waco and Austin as well. I would like to hear your thoughts on this. Of course if we are required by the coordination body then we have no real options but to comply.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73's NG5Y

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were not available at press time but will be read at the next meeting on July 24th.

Upcoming Special Events

August 20—Allen Triathalon The Allen, Texas 7 to 16 year old triathalon. Event will be at Natatorium located at Allen High School, off of Exchange parkway. This event will include bike, swim, and running for the participants. There is a need for 7 to 10 Amateur Radio Operators for this event. Event will run from 8:00am til' about noon. Amateurs need to report at 7:30am. If you are interested in helping out with this event, contact Ski Wojciechowski, K5WOJ at w5woj@aol.com or BOBYOK@peoplepc.com.

September 22-24—Plano Balloon Fest—Information TBA

December 10—Run The Rock—Information TBA

ARRL West Coast Division Update

By Coy Day, N5OK

TEXAS STATE CONVENTION

Austin Summerfest, Fri-Sat, 4-5 August 06, Red Lion Hotel (Now the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza), Interstate 35 and US 290, Exit 238-A, 6121 North Interstate 35. Friday, August 4 (5-9 pm) and Saturday, August 5 (8:00 am -- 5:00 pm). \$8.00/person for advance registration, but \$10.00 at the door. Door prize drawings on the half hour on Saturday until 1:00. Final prizes at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Advance registration closes out July 26. Registration at the door begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 4th. For more information check the web site at: <http://www.austinsummerfest.org/> The ARRL COO, Harold Kramer, WJ1B, will present the Four Pillars of the ARRL. Our Vice Director, Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, and I plan to attend this convention.

Antennas are Where You Find Them

By Richard Arnold, AF8X

When you can't have a "proper" antenna due to space, antenna restrictions or other limitations (such as your spouse!), sometimes you just have to improvise. One enterprising amateur finds places for antennas in places he never even thought of, and in doing so, finds his "super antenna."

Antennas are probably the most discussed item of ham gear and the least understood. For years, I have tried every conceivable type of wire antenna configuration, looking for some accident of physics that would result in a "super antenna." During this search I have discovered a few antennas that actually work pretty well, and because of my passion for portable operation, are also easily erected.

The simplest of antenna in my opinion is the half-wave end fed wire supported by a nearby tree. The half-wave wire does not require a counterpoise or ground plane to perform, as it is a complete antenna. If I feel ambitious and not in a hurry, I will often raise my full-wave wire delta loop. This needs only one overhead support and the two lower corners secured to stakes in the ground.

I like to give my friend Walt Gracey, WB8E, some good-natured harassment about his antennas when we are on one of our "lark in the park" activities. Walt usually erects a ground-mounted vertical with a large counterpoise array. This antenna takes about 30 minutes to put up -- when he has help. In the time it takes him to set up, I have already been on the air for 20 minutes.

The key factor to your choice of portable antennas depends on your type of operation. My priority is on ease of deployment and a petite package to carry. That's why I prefer wire antennas.

On the other hand, I have seen Walt erect a portable Yagi antenna that really plays, but it took two men and a strong boy to put up.

About 80 percent of my operating time is from portable locations: parks, hiking trails and yes, even my own backyard. At home, I connect the awning framework over my deck with an alligator clip attached to a short length of wire; in cooler weather I connect it to the 25 foot flagpole in my front yard, which is warmed by the southern sun. Both of these "antennas" tune to unity on the internal tuners on my Elecraft K1, as well as my KX-1.

When out in the field, I attach the wire to anything that I think might work as an antenna. The flagpole at our local beach and the metal railing on the boardwalk have both made decent antennas. In short, you may be surprised at what you can load up with a tuner that will become a passable, if not very good antenna.

At home, in order to keep peace in the family, I am limited to the number of outdoor antennas. I started thinking about indoor antennas and tried the dipole in the attic, but it is difficult to scamper around in a ranch home attic -- I have the scars on my head to prove it. My next idea was a horizontal loop. My shack is a small 10x10 room with a decorative molding running around the walls near the ceiling. I stapled a 24-gauge wire on top of the molding and terminated the ends at mid-point along one wall where I attached the TV twin-lead 300 Ω feed line. The feed line is about 7 feet long and is attached to my four-band K1 with the auto tuner. My first contact on 15 meters was a station in Italy on 5 W!

Does it work? It also tunes 15, 20, 30 and 40 meters. This antenna, which Walt calls, "the nursing home loop," would work great for any one not allowed to put up outdoor antennas.

You never know -- try everything you can think of, and maybe, just maybe you will some day create that freak of nature, the small super antenna.

Antennas are Where You Find Them

By Richard Arnold, AF8X

Cont...

Dick Arnold, AF8X, of Clinton Township, Michigan, is a retired construction electrician who has had an interest in Morse code since studying it as a Boy Scout. When his son, Gary, W8TVR, got interested in ham radio and built a Heathkit transmitter, Dick got involved, and due to Gary's prodding, went from Novice to Amateur Extra in short order. He only operates QRP CW these days, mostly from portable locations. He doesn't care about DX and would rather have an interesting "ragchew" with any station. For years Dick operated mobile from his motor home and later as bicycle mobile, but more recently he's been only fixed portable. He has both the Elecraft K1 and KX-1, which he built from kits.



This is the wire I use between the rig and whatever I use as an antenna. The end with the clamp attaches to the metal structure used as the antenna, such as awning framework, metal railings and flagpoles. When I am away from home, I will try anything metal to see how it tunes. I normally use an Elecraft K1 or KX1 with their internal tuners, seldom using a counterpoise with these types of antennas.



I use this flagpole at my home as an antenna -- it loads 15, 20, 30 and 40 meters.

Sometimes I use the awning on my back patio as an antenna. The awning frame is resonant on 30 meters, but will load other bands, too.



GARC FIELD DAY 2006

Photos by Sam Barricklow (K5KJ)



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**.

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 email it to the Arclite editor at **kaye.duncan@verizon.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.

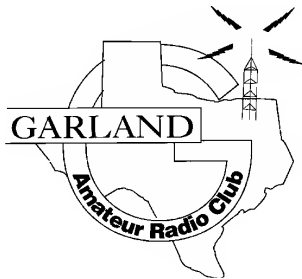
To submit changes to the GARC roster (such as change of address, updated phone numbers, license upgrade, etc), send them to the GARC secretary, Laura Richards at lmhrichards@gmail.com

Early Warning Siren Tests:

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 Bill Richards, KM5VZ if interested in helping out.

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



Please Rush!!!

Reminder

3rd Saturday @ The ECC - August 13th - 9 am to 12 noon