



THE ARCLITE

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 05

MAY 2007

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THE PRESIDENT'S PEN BY ALLEN YODER NG5Y



From the President's Pen May 2007

If this article seems busier than usual that is because it is. June is like the holiday season of ham radio.

The first item I want to talk about is the recent "Extreme Scout Show" that the GARC and the DARC attended. We had several members of the club who volunteered their help. I want to thank each of them for their time and effort. I also want to thank K5JD Johnny Davis for the use of his repeater and echolink. The show was a mega outing for the scouts to expose them to new things and experiences. Our booth ended up in an area of the convention center that was off the beaten path. So Swank and I took the path to the kids. I think it's very important for us to recruit new hams from the ranks of school age children.

In that regard the club is once again hosting "Kids Day". It will be June 16th. We will be doing 2 things that day. Number one is having the ECC open for Kids to operate. But we also will be operating a Special Event Station. This special event will run concurrent with the kids day operation. We plan to run at least two Special Events this year to commemorate our club's 50th anniversary.

But we can't forget that Ham Com is June 8th and 9th. The GARC will have a booth in the main hallway to meet and greet hams. We can hand out membership forms and make a presence for our club at Ham Com. I will be seeking out people to help man the booth.

Ralph is hard at work on preparations for field day. Last year we ran two stations and also a GOTA station. The club usually treats field day as a social outing. If you want to make it an outright contest it's best if you get involved right

Continued on page 7



"To Err is human...To bubble up is necessary"

"Who says Ham is only something you eat at Easter?"

"When Dad use to call me a ham he wasn't talking about the radio!"

A little about your editor:

My name is Melanie. You can't call me Mel because I don't wear a stamp (Mail), I'm Female, and for you old folks who can remember the television show Alice- I don't own a diner. (Mel's Diner)



2007 Event News -

Ham-Com will give away \$100.00 per hour each day! With grand prizes, there will be a minimum of 74 door prizes awarded during the 18 hours of operation!

ALL parking is on-site and FREE! Up-to-date event information will be broadcast on 87.9 FM (via your car radio at the site).

Registration is \$7.00 online (www.hamcom.org) or \$10.00 at event door.

- Event Start/End Times -

Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9

8:00 a.m. - Flea market opens.

9:00 a.m. - Commercial vendors open.

6:00 p.m. - Flea market & commercial vendors close.

** Some speakers, workshops and meetings will continue until 9:00 p.m. BOTH days.*

**Welcome to the
ARRL West Gulf Division Convention!**

Over 90 hours of speakers, workshops and special interest group meetings are on the schedule!

- Important Dates -

- May 30** Last day to buy admission online
- June 1** Last day to purchase DX dinner tickets
- June 7** Vendor move-in
- June 8-9** Event days

DX dinner tickets on sale through May 30, 2007!

<http://www.hamcom.org/>

Prize list announced!

REPEATER SUPPORT GUILD



We are making progress towards our goal! You can still help by donating your used printer and toner cartridges to the club. Your old cell phones and equipment are also acceptable. Of course you can always just make a donation as many have done!

The other ways you can help are to join the Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program (#11636) or ask a club officer for a Kroger Share Card.

Minutes of the Garland ARC meeting 4-23-07 as submitted by David Beveridge

Garland Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Announcements

- There are new QSL cards for the GARC which are now ready for special events.
 - Bob, W5BJ, will now be net control for our monthly on the air meetings.
 - The Tom Thumb Good Neighbor plan was explained. The number assigned to the club is 11636. Cards will be arriving soon from Kroger and will be distributed.
 - Some ARRL brochures are available tonight; most will be distributed at the Scout event.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Hamcom is on June 8 - 9.
 - Kids Day is June 16.
 - Field Day is June 23 - 24.
 - A field trip is being planned to tour the KRLD transmitter for 25 people or less. Let Allen know if anyone is interested.
 - If you are not currently a member of the ARRL, please consider joining.
- The club is working with World Radio. A one year membership costs \$17.00.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Club Account \$1,839.52

Repeater Fund \$84.77

Swank-VP

The Scout Show is on May 12 at Market Hall in Downtown Dallas. The Scout Show is a once a year fundraiser for the Scouts. 1,500 – 2,000 scouts are expected to attend. The club has been asked to set up an Emergency Communication Center for the scouts to see.

Ralph-Comm Officer

Obtained the tent for Field Day from the Funeral Home. A flyer will be prepared to go out to all of the Garland Schools. Our Field Day location will be by Hawaiian Falls, there will be free food. All scout troops are welcome.

Bill-Education Officer

Beginning this Tuesday night, a class will begin for the Technician Class license. We will be participating with the Scout event, helping out with the Radio Merit Badge.

Tom, ARRL section manager

- L.D. Carpenter has been appointed as the new Dallas County RACES officer.
 - There are currently bills in the Texas Legislature that could affect Amateur Radio. One is a section in the Texas Education Code which refers to paging devices. Some have heard that Amateur Radio has been banned in Texas public schools. If a school has a ban on paging devices, then this ban will affect Amateur Radio also. This amendment has now been passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. Other bills exist about the use of cell phones while driving which have the same style of language that could affect Amateur Radio. Efforts are underway to defeat the part of these bills which would affect us.
- * James White KE5NUF was voted in as a new member.

Len Carlson, K4IWL from the DARC gave a presentation on the New Caroling Windsom Antenna. The plans to construct this antenna can be found on his website at the following address:

www.w5fc.org/files/qrp%20expressions.pdf

He can be contacted via email at k4iwl@arrl.net

FIELD DAY IS ON IT'S WAY!!! DON'T MISS THE FUN!



**Garland Amateur Radio Club
K5QHD -- Garland, Texas**

Field Day, June 23-24, 2007

What is Amateur Radio?

Other methods of communication, whether it is telephones, cell phones, or the Internet, rely on electricity and other systems to function. Even if these systems are working correctly, they can be, and often are, overwhelmed by the amount of calls that occur during a crisis or disaster. Amateur Radio is different. Amateur radio is able to communicate radio-to-radio around town or across the world without being connected to the power grid or any other services to function! The radio operators are able to bounce their signals off the upper regions of the atmosphere, satellites, or even the moon to reach all over the earth.

Amateur Radio operators often assist in emergency situations, such as severe weather events and disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. Amateur Radio operators were instrumental in providing communication for the federal, state and local government, as well as organizations such as the American Red Cross and others. Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise sponsored by the American Radio Relay League which encourages emergency communications preparedness. Since the first Field Day in 1933, Amateur radio operators throughout the United States have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications



equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.

Field Day stresses emergency preparedness. Frequently, entire radio clubs get involved and assemble a portable radio station in a field or park. Some might use quickly deployable portable antennas while other might erect more elaborate radio masts and towers supporting several antennas.

Generators or solar power provide electricity to amateur radio transceivers, which may be located in tents, recreational vehicles, or other portable shelters.



The Garland Amateur Radio Club will be holding their Field Day activities beginning on Saturday, June 23 at 1:00 pm and ending on Sunday, June 24 at 1:00 pm at W. Cecil Winters Park, located by Hawaiian Falls at N. Garland Ave. and Arapaho. The event will begin on Saturday morning, and end on Sunday afternoon. All are invited to attend and participate, and learn how Amateur Radio works. Anyone interested may leave a voice mail at 972-272-4499 or send an email to

board@K5QHD.org for information on how to participate.

OH, DID WE MENTION AMATEUR RADIO IS FUN?



LETTER FROM N5GAR

ALERT: Thu, May 17, 2007; 11:16 AM ET From Tom Blackwell, N5GAR:
THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE is in session.

There are bills that would impact the ability of amateurs to transmit over the air while driving motor vehicles. As originally drafted, the bills would make this a criminal offense, with tickets issued by police, unless a 'hands free device' is used. These are SB 154 by Wentworth / HB 3689 by Coleman, and HB 201 by Mendez. As previously reported here, public hearings were held on HB 201 - April 17, on HB 200 - April 24, and on SB 154 - April 25. SB 154 has passed the Senate Committee with language that is improved, but where some unintended consequences for amateurs remain.

Go to this URL and click on any underlined icon below for more details.

<http://www.arrl.org/sections/NTX.html> · [SB 154](#) / [HB 3689](#) · [HB 201](#)

Representatives have been asked to amend these proposals to exclude all two-way radio.

These bills provide additional regulation of wireless devices operated by motorists in school crossing zones:

· [HB 200](#)

· [HB 397](#)

· [Article - February 5, 2007](#)

HB 652 by an El Paso area Legislator, Chente Quintanilla, proposed to double fines where a driver uses a two-way radio or other device and another offense occurs. I testified at a public hearing by the House Transportation Committee, in opposition to this bill. The Texas Association of Broadcasters also presented testimony in opposition. See the photo, below. This bill did not proceed past the scheduling deadline, and is considered 'dead.'

· [HB 652](#)

The omnibus reform act for Homeland Security has now passed the Texas Senate. It provides for participation by state employees who hold amateur licenses. It also provides for vehicles used in amateur emergency programs to be considered emergency vehicles. The House and Senate bills are companions. I testified in favor of the Senate bill. See the photo, below. At my request it was amended to resolve a conflict in the Education Code with the definition of a 'paging device.' As previously reported here, a public hearing was held on the House companion bill, HB 3642, on April 17.

· [SB 11](#) · [HB 3642](#) · [Article - May 7 - Some hearings exceed 11 hours](#)

SCOUT SHOW MAY 2007



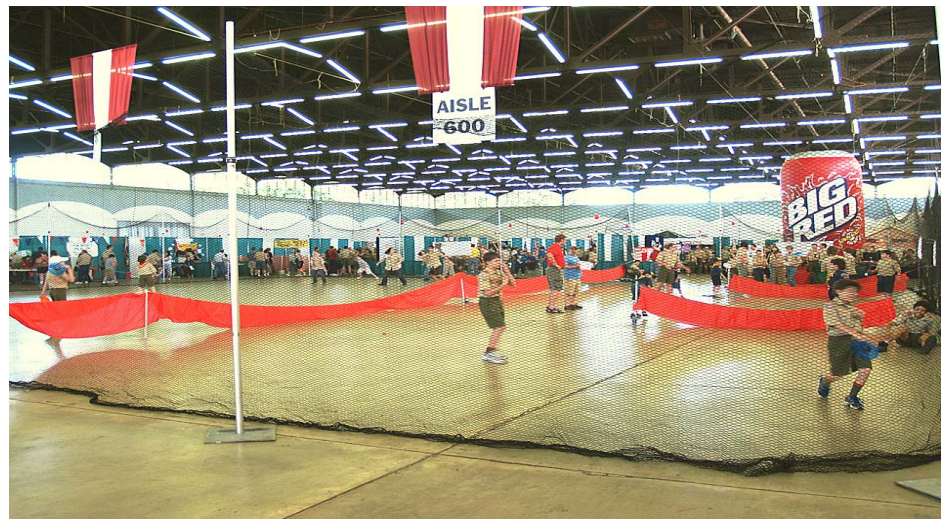
SWAP Tables

When you attend a meeting you should notice that there is a empty table at the side of the room. This is provided so that if you have any ham radio related gear to trade you can. This month I will donate some computer gear to the club. You decide what it's worth and donate that amount to the club!

I will have several computer monitors, a flat bed scanner and some Pentium 4 hulks IE bare system board with a crusty old case. (The boards were working when taken out of service)

Scouts check out the exhibit at the EXTREAM SCOUT SHOW

PICTURES BY JIM PIERCE W5RRY



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President's Pen continued from page one

now. Field Day will be June 23rd and 24th this year.

We have thus far raised just about \$200 out of our goal of \$2500 for the Repeater Support Guild: the goal being to upgrade and improve our current two meter repeater. You can help in several ways. You can always just make a donation! We have worked with both Kroger Food Stores and Tom Thumb to secure funds a different way. If regularly shop at Tom Thumb, see the customer service department and tell them you want to sign up for the "Good Neighbor" program and associate your Tom Thumb Rewards Card with the clubs number. That number is 11636. If you shop at Kroger, they too have a program to help the club. We have Kroger "SHARE" Cards to hand out at the meeting. You can take a few and share them with anyone who can help. To use the Kroger Share card you scan both your Kroger Plus card and your new "Share" Card. Both Tom Thumb and Kroger will donate 1% of your food purchases to the club.

There will be a very Special Award from the ARRL bestowed upon one of our members at the next meeting. To find out who and what this award is please plan on attending!

Woman's Auxiliary

From time to time I hear that the club centers almost all it's attention on things that a bunch of old crusty guys would like to do. To me my thought is the more the merrier! So I propose that we start a Woman's Auxiliary for the club. My thinking is that the gals can get together and plot against the old geezers! If you woman folk have some interest you want to share with each other, weather it is directly related to ham radio or not radio related in the slightest way I encourage you to get together and share your ideas. What kind of ideas? Well things like what you find fun! This auxiliary would welcome participation by both female hams and also the non ham spouses of members of the club.

Contact your newsletter editor if you are interested in participating.

Sonic Night & Meetings on the air

Currently we are having a meeting on the air on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. I would like to see more participation in these events. I proposed that along with talking on the repeater you could also meet at the Sonic Restaurant on Forrest Lane in Garland. The purpose of the Sonic get together being to have an eyeball chat or show off your mobile rig. The "On the Air" meetings are a chance for upcoming events to be announced and discussed as well as the usual opportunities for swap shop and tech talk.

Be the First

Be the First Person to come up to me (NG5Y) and tell me they have signed up for the Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program, or ask me to give them a Kroger Share Card. Good things will happen if you do.

Pre Meeting Get Together

This is a reminder that if you would like to get a bite to eat before the main meeting that several of us have gotten in the habit of having a burger and the Main Street Bar in downtown Garland just prior to the meeting. We get there about 6:00 Pm. This leaves plenty of time to be at the main meeting by 7:30.

Rookie Corner

Written by Bill Engel KE5DHY

Rookie Corner
by Bill Engel KE5DHY
Education Officer

Two years ago this month I made my first contact on HF with my brand new ICOM IC-706MKIIG transceiver, brand new antenna tuner, a random wire antenna running along the siding across the front of my house (so the HOA police wouldn't see it) and, of course, a newly driven ground rod. Wasn't really sure if it would work, but it did. First time I keyed the mike I answered a CQ from V31WC. Wow, I said to myself, I think I'm going to like this hobby.

Now a lot of folks are coming into the HF world as a result of the FCC decisions on eliminating the code test and the extension of Tech Plus Code privileges to all Techs. So I decided I would try to put together a little column each month addressing some of the questions that hams new to HF might have. According to CQ Magazine's contest rules, one is a rookie for three years, so this will be a rookie to rookie column.

I'll start out with a "Frequently Asked Questions" format and see how that goes.

Q. What's with all the Q signs on phone? I thought they were for CW.

A. Many Q signs are used as short cuts on phone as well and you need to know them. Ones that come to mind, in no particular order, are:

QRT – I am shutting down. Amazing how many hams keep calling after a DX station goes QRT.

QSY – I am changing frequency to ----.

QSL?/QSL – Did you understand what I said?/I understood what you said. Not a request for a QSL card.

QSO – A conversation.

QRZ? - Who is calling? Used by a station that did not understand the calling station's call sign. Often used in place of CQ.

QRM – I am experiencing interference from another station.

QRN – I'm being bothered by static.

QSB – Your signal is affected by fading.

QRP – I am running low power (usually 5 watts or less)

Q. Do I need to keep a log?

A. There is no requirement to keep a log. But, sooner or later someone will request confirmation, via a QSL card, of a QSO. You will need some means of verifying the information. So it's best to keep a log. There are log books available for manual logs and many computer programs available for purchase or for no charge. Or one could easily use a spreadsheet program for logging.

Q. How come I can't hear anyone on the 10, 12, and 15 meter bands?

A. Your radio is not broken. There have been very few sunspots lately to keep the ionosphere ionized. It's all part of the normal sunspot cycle. Just hang out on 20 meters with everyone else (see QRM above) until next year when things should start getting better.

Q. I heard a station on 7080 KHz saying he was "listening this frequency and 225." What does that mean?

A. In many countries stations cannot operate above 7100 KHz in the 40 meter band to avoid interference with broadcast stations between 7100 and 7300 KHz. We cannot operate phone on the same frequencies that these foreign stations can. So in this case the foreign station expects us to be transmitting on 7225 KHz. He will listen for US stations on 7225 and non-US stations on his transmitting frequency. You must put your radio into "split" operation (see your manual). Be sure to listen on your transmitting frequency to make sure you will not be interfering with (QRMI) another station before transmitting. Your rig may have a "XFC" momentary push button for this purpose.

Q. Should I work contests?

A. By all means! Annoy your spouse! Check the ARRL and the CQ Magazine web sites for dates and links to the rules. Before the contest starts be sure to read the rules. Once the contest starts listen for a while to understand "the exchange." It could be a sequential number, CQ Zone, ARRL Section, state, county, first name, or some other item. A logging program is almost a necessity, especially one that is geared to the contest. Some contest rules will recommend a free logging program. Best contests to get started with are the various state QSO parties or the North America QSO Party.

Enough for now. If you have questions you would like to see answered drop me an e-mail to ke5dhy@arrl.net.

JUNE 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Join the K5QHD yahoo group	To view an interactive	Calendar			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting Meeting on the Air	9 Ham Com ← 8th and 9th
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Kids Day Open House ECC
17	18	19	20	21	22 Meeting on the Air	23 Field Day
24 Field Day	25 CLUB MEETING	26	27	28 VEC TEST	29	30

SAME NET TIME, SAME NET FREQUENCY

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

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

ON THE AIR

We have restarted our "Meeting on the air". Tune in on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 7:00 PM 146.660 MHZ All licensed amateurs are welcome to participate.

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**.

Internet:

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

<http://www.k5qhd.org> ALSO

SEE K5QHD Under Yahoo Groups

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 editor@k5qhd.org

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, at secretary@k5qhd.org.

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



Where Radio is Fun ... Again !

Please Rush!!!

Reminder

RENEW YOUR ARRL SUBSCRIPTION AT THE GARC