

February 2008

K5QHD

News and more for the Garland Amateur Radio Club. The GARC Currently has two repeaters on 146.660 and 442.700 Both PL Tone 110.9

ARC.LITE

THE GARC is a 501(C)3 non profit organization established to promote amateur radio and also provide disaster and emergency communications.

February meeting date is 25th at the Garland Women's Activity Center 713 W. Austin Street. Garland TX. 75040
Doors open at 7:00 PM Meeting at 7:30

Volume 36 Issue 2 [146.660 442.700 PL 110.9]



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

The Final Address DE NG5Y

Dear Friends and Hams,

This is the final President's Pen article from yours truly. I do feel like I did manage to coax and cajole a few people, and made a few things happen that did benefit the club. Rather than pat myself on the back, I do want to thank each and every club member and officer who has helped over the last two years. With out your help we could not have done anything at all.

There is still much to be done. There is still some maintenance that needs to be done on both repeaters that I really wish could have been done before now. The really big thing though is we need to work on getting youth involved in the club. I hear that we had quite a few non hams attend Skywarn School and they asked about how to help, every little bit helps! Lastly I want to thank all of you for putting up with me for two years! I know I have ruffled at least a few feathers, but a leader can not make everyone happy all the time. I never intentionally tried to lesson anyone's enjoyment of ham radio. If you expect more of the GARC, there is one sure fire way to get it! Put more into the club with your time and effort!

73's NG5Y Allen Yoder

DX PEDITION PICS



Oahu DX

These are pictures from NG5Y's and KD5LVW's trip to Oahu Hawaii. We did take a radio with us but we never actually worked anyone. We did hear some very clever tail messages!

EmComm

Remember that scene in the movie "The Graduate" when a friend of Benjamin's (Dustin Hoffmann) parents comes up to him and says "I have one word for you. Plastics"? Well if Benjamin was a ham and the movie was made today that line might be "I have one word for you. Digital."

Such is the nature of our hobby today because one of the major areas of growth is the design and implementation of the digital modes. Whether it's DStar, SSTV, any and all of the soundcard modes, Pactor III, digital SSB phone, or HSMM, and on frequencies from the HF bands to 2.8 GHz, digital is the wave of the future.

I know, I know... nothing will replace SSB phone, let alone the original digital mode of CW (is it digital because it is binary or because you use your fingers?), for the traditionalists. Nor should we be concerned about these modes disappearing. The amateur radio community has a huge investment in the hardware for these modes and they will have utility for decades to come.

What does this digital trend have to do with emcomm? First, digital modes can be extremely efficient at moving detailed traffic, particularly under poor band conditions. Second, digital modes can provide significant security from prying eyes or ears accessing the traffic being passed. Third, digital can also provide multi-mode (voice, data, video) communications in formats that served agencies may already be familiar with. Fourth, but not at all last, digital can provide

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Purchases help
the GARC



seamless transfer of data from the airwaves into the internet.

So, should be a natural and easy fit for emcomm, right? Well, not so far, and for a variety of reasons. Within the past week the FCC was auctioning off the 700 MHz band. This was a blunt reminder of just how valuable that radio spectrum is. As they say, like oceanfront property, they aren't creating any more spectrum. The only question is how you divvy up the finite amount that is available.

The portion of the spectrum allocated to ham radio is, in the grand scheme of things, pretty small. But it still has value and, as we are often reminded, we may face a use-it-or-lose-it situation.

How are we using it? And who gets to use which portion of the ham bands? We know that we have FCC regulations and "gentlemen's agreement" band plans to maintain order on the ham frequencies. Unfortunately, we don't always get along like ladies and gentlemen and squabbles arise about the sometimes conflicting uses of different modes on the bands.

And the emcomm issue here? Spend some time reading the postings on any of the emcomm or digital bulletin boards/reflectors/Yahoo groups, etc., and probably postings on the sites dedicated to other modes.

You would think that some of the digital modes are a threat to life as we know it. There are often shrill complaints that Pactor, ALE (Automatic Link Establishing) stations, "robot-controlled" stations, and various modes are bandwidth hogs that are QRM'ing other hams off the air.

I don't know about you, but the vast majority of the time (read that as non-contest time) that I tune up and down the HF bands on the major portion of each band there is little to nothing to be heard. Where is the problem?



Keeping in mind that emcomm users of digital modes such as Pactor III that can have a bandwidth of two to three kilohertz only run them as necessary to maintain and develop skills and to ensure that their equipment is functioning properly, or to employ them in drills or actual events. The rest of the time they are off the air. So why do we hear the complaints?

Don't get me wrong. You can always find an instance of some ham somewhere using any one of the modes during normal or contest conditions behaving badly. Fortunately they are the exception not the norm. As often as not, the typical ham will, at a minimum, listen before transmitting or, even better, inquire if a frequency is in use.

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Minutes of the January 2008 Meeting

The Meeting Minutes were kept by Swank Roberts in David Beverages absence. The minutes were not available at press time due mainly to the vacation activities of the Arclite Editor. They will be posted in the March Arclite.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mesquite Radio Parade

Ok so it's the **Rodeo** Parade. But you can really help with your radio and make it a fun day for everyone.

John Galvin, N5TIM needs your help with the following events:

Mesquite Rodeo Parade

Mesquite Rodeo Parade will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 and Ham Association of Mesquite will be needing volunteers this year. The parade starts at 10:00 AM and all volunteers will need to be at Florence Black Elementary School, 328 E. Newson Street, 75149 at 7:30 A.M. All help will be appreciated. Volunteers need to contact George Rice - KC5TOO (972-222-3312) by Wednesday March 26.

This is a fun event and RACES members will receive credit for working the event.

Thanks,

George Rice KC5TOO, 972-222-3312 or garice@sbcglobal.net

April 19, 2008

WalkAmerica 2008

March of Dimes walk at White Rock Lake, Dallas, Texas. This is a 7 mile walk at White Rock Lake with a 9:00 a.m. start time. We will need Resource Type S, B, and M communicators. To volunteer for this event, contact John Galvin, N5TIM, n5tim+arrl.net or use the Easy Sign-up Form. For more information, please visit www.walkamerica.org or www.marchofdimes.com/texas.

Sam's Club MS-150 Bike Tour May 3-4

Contact KB5ZDG, James Marple, for more info at j.marple@verizon.net.

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. **Always check with your RACES officer to verify an event will count for RACES credit.**

Ways you can help the GARC

We really don't like sounding like a broken record, but the GARC can only be as good as what you put into it. Your time, and your money make a tremendous difference in what the club can do! Both for you and the community. In that light I am again going to ask that if you bring a Kroger or a Tom Thumb Grocery receipt that shows you shopped there and remembered to use your "Good Neighbor" or share card program. You will be entered into a drawing for a excellent prize. The 442.7 machine needs

to have some maintenance done so that it hears better.

We have telephone and internet bills, and the cost of the newsletter itself. There is also the issue of the clubs insurance expenses that are a constant drain on the treasury.

If none of the ideas presented so far are your cup of tea please contact the board and let us know what your ideas are. I am open to things like a bake sale or other fundraising ideas.

73's
NG5Y

How did you get your ticket?

I saw an article on how clubs were focusing on getting young people into ham radio and they decided they should poll their members on how they got into the hobby. Please take a moment and email editor@k5qhd.org with your story on how you became involved with ham radio, and also your ideas on how to get and keep new members and hams. Every member of the club has something they can share with the rest of the club that makes the entire club better! Please share your ideas!

WAYS TO HELP

Garland Amateur Radio Club
Where Ham Radio Is Fun...AGAIN!



Donate your excess goods to the GARC.

Don't forget the club is a 501(C)(3) organization and that all your donations can be tax deductible.

It's RENEWAL TIME

CLUB AFFILIATIONS

For most of you, your club dues will expire at the end of February. Please plan to renew your membership at the January Meeting!



Also NOTE, if you join the ARRL or RENEW your ARRL MEMBERSHIP through the GARC, the club gets a portion of your ARRL MEMBERSHIP. So please renew your ARRL MEMBERSHIP through the GARC.

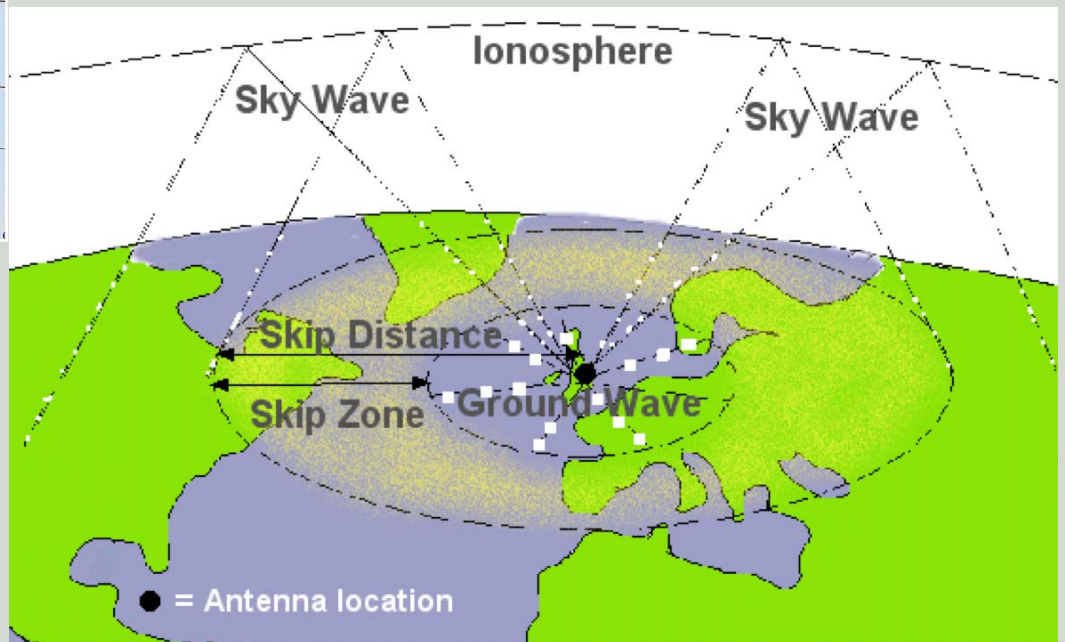


The meeting topic for February will be NVIS Antennas by Larry Randall WA5BEN



K5QHD GARC

The GARC is proud to be associated with the ARRL, RACES, ARES and of course we love our country.



But just like the old saying that “you can’t work them if you can’t hear them” you won’t know that you are QRM’ing if you are unaware that another station out there somewhere can hear you when you cannot hear him.

Efforts by the ARRL in its proposal to regulate emissions by bandwidth met with a lot of resistance. The last thing we need is for the FCC to impose rules to deal with a situation that hams should be able to resolve on their own.

Change is never easy. However, good operating practices will never change. Nobody owns or controls a particular frequency. When you know a frequency is being used by another station use that big tuning knob and move away. Listen, then transmit. Be considerate. Understand that hams have a long tradition of accommodating new modes (spark gap anyone?) and that we all benefit when the hobby thrives and expands.

And no matter the mode, we always want to make sure that we are prepared to meet our community’s needs when disaster strikes. So let’s make sure that we leave room for new modes or those that meet specialized needs. Allow them their portion of the airwaves. Remember that Section 97.1 of the FCC rules reads “The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles: (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.” Emcomm remains a primary purpose of the amateur radio service. Let’s all work together to make that a reality.

Jim, KC8PD

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March 2008

GARC BOARD MEETING MARCH 10th
GARC MEETING MARCH 24th
VEC TESTING MARCH 27th



RACES NETS*

Every Thursday
Night at 9:00 PM
local time on
either the 146.660
or 147.240. In
addition there is
also a 1st and 3rd
Sunday net on
146.880 at 8:00 pm

ARES NET

Unlike the Races
nets you do not
have to have an
Races Appointment
to participate.
ARES NETS are the
4th Thursday on
Either 146.660 or
147.240 at 9:00 pm

SIREN TEST

Garland’s Early
Warning Sirens are
tested by the city
on the first
wednesday of each
month at noon,
weather premitting.

RACES NET PARTICIPATION REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION BY RACES Authority or FCC

GARC GENERAL INFO

Repeaters:

The GARC operates two open repeaters for it's members and guest amateur radio operators on 146.66 (-) and 442.7 (+) Both with PL Tone 110.9

Trustee: Bob Jones W5BJ trustee@k5qhd.org

INTERNET:

See us at <http://www.k5qhd.org> also on

Yahoo groups

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. The deadline for Arclite materials is the 2nd monday of each month.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership forms are available at the GARC monthly meetings or the GARC website. Members can be voted in at each meeting. Club Rosters for non commercial uses can be obtained by club members by contacting a board member.

President: Allen Yoder NG5Y

president@k5qhd.org

Vice President: Swank Roberts WA5GNT

vp@k5qhd.org

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CONTACT THE BOARD AT board@k5qhd.org

GARLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Emergency Communications Center (ECC)

1027-B. West Austin Street.

Garland, TX. 75040

Where Ham Radio is Fun Again!

K5QHD is the Bill Folsdtadt Memorial Station



PLEASE RUSH!!!