

THE ARCLITE

SEPTEMBER, 2008



Hurricane Ike Slams Galveston and Houston.

Salvation Army asking for CASH\$ donations!

The Presidents Pen K5DHY Bill Engel

Fall is just a week away and the temperatures are getting a little cooler. For hams it's a good time to get out and make those changes and adjustments to the antennas. Also it's the start of the amateur radio contest season with state QSO parties, such as the California QSO Party on October 4th and 5th, and assorted DX oriented contests, such as the CQ World Wide RTTY contest on September 27th and 28th.

The club has been asked by the Circle 10 Council of the Boy Scouts of America to host a portion of the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on October 18th. We have published the letter elsewhere in this newsletter. We have offered the use of the ECC

on that date and are looking into the possibility of using Rick KG500's trailer at a public location also. That is also the date of our third Saturday open house at the ECC which means we'll need to be considerate of those operating the radios.

At a recent board meeting we were discussing how to get more people involved in amateur radio. One of the board members suggested inviting a friend or family member to go along with you when you participate in public service events. Borrow a radio so he or she can listen to the communications. You might get someone hooked on the hobby.

September's meeting's speaker is

Gary Woodall KD5WUT of the National Weather Service. I believe that Gary's topic is about ham radio's role with the NWS.

Our annual club auction will be at the October meeting. Go through your closets now and find those ham radio things that haven't been used for a while that might be more valuable to another ham than they are to you. Dust them off and bring them to sell on October 20th. Ten percent of the proceeds go to the club treasury.

Hopefully the hurricane season is behind us. Thanks to everyone who helped with Gustav and Ike.

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Upcoming Public Service Events

K5DHY Bill Engel

Public service events are an excellent way to hone your communicating skills so you can be a valuable resource in an emergency situation. If you are a first timer let the coordinator know and you will be assigned accordingly. Here's what's coming up:

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday September 19, 20, and 21 D/FW area operators are invited to volunteer to work communications support for the Plano Balloon Festival. The event runs all day long for three days. Each day will have two balloon flights (weather permitting). Volunteers will be needed in shifts for the duration of the event. Visit <http://www.planoballoonfest.org/> for Festival Information.

Saturday, September 27 is the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk in the vicinity of American Airlines Center. This is an excellent event for first-time communicators to get their feet wet. Contact John Will, W5EJ, at w5ej@arrl.net. For more info about the event see <http://www.jdrfdallas.org/walktocurediabetes.php>.

Saturday, October 18 is the Collin County BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) competition at Ereckson Middle School in Allen. Hams are needed on game day to help with the game and as mentors and coaches for this event. See the Public Service web page for more info.

Sunday, October 19 is a new event in Plano called the Blacklands Triathlon. See the Public Service web page for more info and how to sign up.

Sunday, December 14 is the Dallas White Rock Marathon Presented by NexBank. Mark your calendar and look for more info in the future. Contact is Bob Jones, W5BJ, w5bj@arrl.net. Hams are already signing up, so e-mail Bob if you want to get assigned to your favorite location. Event information at <http://www.runtherock.com/>.

The first Wednesday of each month are the emergency warning siren tests in Garland and Rowlett. Ham operators are needed to visually inspect the sirens and report on their operation. You need not be affiliated with RACES to perform these tests and you can do either the Garland test at noon or the Rowlett test at 1 pm or both. Siren locations and signup are on the Rowlett RACES web site <http://www.rowlettaces.us/> or you can e-mail Ian DiFranco KE5FOM at ian.difranco@verizon.net.

As always, public service event information can be found on the web at <http://www.qsl.net/n5tim/uplist.html>.



President's Pen CONT:

Tentative date for the club's Christmas Party is Saturday, December 6th in the late afternoon at our Murphy house. Because there are no streetlights in the neighborhood we need to have the festivities start before dark. More to come later.

73,
Bill

CAN YOU HELP?

The sign on the door of the ECC is getting rather worn and the website address is out of date. Is there someone that can get a new sign made for us at minimal cost to the club? Please email president@k5qhd.org if you can help.



Bob Jones W5BJ

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

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

August meeting date is the 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



**Don Reznicek KE5FWK and Grady Belt W5TGF
Ham it up at the ECC**

Hmmm... antenna design ... for everything you gain, you lose something else.

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 permitting

RACES NET PARTICIPATION REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION BY RACES Authority or FCC

REPEATER NEWS**BY Bill Engel K5DHY**

The club operates two open repeaters for use by any licensed amateur radio operator. One is on 146.660 MHz with a negative 600 KHz offset and the other is on 442.700 MHz with a positive 5 MHz offset. Both repeaters require a PL tone of 110.9 Hz. Additionally the 146.660 repeater transmits a tone of 110.9 Hz to enable use of tone squelch found on most receivers. The backup two meter repeater that is occasionally put into service does not have this feature.

The new repeater controller will be put into service after some programming is finished.

If you are not familiar with the Club's guidelines for usage of our repeaters please take a few minutes to look them over. They are accessible on our web site under "Club Information" then "Repeater Use Guidelines."

For Sale or Trade

Uniden Bearcat BC350A Scanner \$50

Like new ... never used !
Scans from 29Mhz to 512Mhz.

Call 972-414-7979 before
9PM ! Will consider trade for
working lawn mower.

Icom 91-A 2M/440 talkie & Scanner \$300

Includes leather carrying case & belt clip, AC charger, flex antenna, and Remote Control software.

Very good condition!

swank.roberts@gmail.com

Here's what's happening at the Ham Association of Mesquite:

Monthly T-Hunts in Mesquite:

October 5th, 2008

November 9th, 2008

December 7th, 2008

The T-Hunts start at 1:00 pm on the WJ5J repeater (145.310 – PL 162.2) and the fox is on 146.310 simplex. We have 1-2 hunts and always head to a eatery for refreshment and debriefing.

Ham Radio in the Park (HRitP):

Our next HAM Radio in the Park will be on Sunday September 21st from 0900 to 1500 at the Debusk/Peachtree Pavilion located at

Peachtree at South Parkway.

Please come on out and join us.

We will be setting up HF and VHF stations to operate along with other activities such as building antennas and working on other projects. So, if you

have a new rig and need some help with programming, want to build an antenna or need any other help, advice or instructions, *HRitP* is for you.

JOTA**Needs the GARC's HELP**

Dear Officers/Directors of
the Garland Amateur Radio Club,

I am Mathew Simon, a member of the Boy Scouts Of America, Circle Ten Council's International Committee. The goal of the International Committee is to promote International Brotherhood and Friendship by encouraging Boy Scouts from various countries to interact with each other.

The World Scout Organization promotes the JOTA - Jamboree On The Air. The JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves. This year it is scheduled to be on October 18th and 19th, Saturday and Sunday.

I am trying to setup a couple of stations for JOTA in the DFW Metro and North Texas areas. I was wondering whether your Club can help to setup a couple of Radio Stations in the Garland area, for use on Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM? If we can set it up in a public area like a Park it would be ideal. Otherwise we can settle indoor also.

Please let me know, whether you can help.

Thanking you,

Regards,
Mathew Simon

Email board@k5khd.org if you can help!

Amateur Radio And The Internet

Today the World Wide Web offers extended range for much of the

population but before the internet radio amateurs ventured beyond the local neighborhood through the magic of radio. For decades, long before the internet, hams would sue radio as a means to maintain friendships, stay in touch with loved ones and help others contact family in remote places of the globe.

Long distance chess was once a popular on air activity. Amateur Radio operators would set up chess boards and moves were exchanged over the air. Each radio operator maintained their chess board according to the moves transmitted by each other. Often these games would be played out over the course of days or weeks during scheduled contacts. The activity was not about finishing the game quickly as it was it was about meeting on the air often.

A lot of naysayers have claimed the internet to be the death of Amateur Radio. In fact some non-radio people when asked about ham radio will respond with "hasn't the internet made that obsolete?" On the contrary, if anything the internet has enhanced Amateur Radio. Think about the many ways hams use the internet.

Radio Clubs Club members can stay informed all the time through the use of e-mail reflectors. Various users groups allow people to exchange ideas and information about their favorite piece of equipment or operating mode. If you think about it these user's groups are like virtual specialty clubs for people with a shared interest.

Many clubs use the internet to distribute electronic newsletters and maintain websites to keep members informed and attract new members.

The DX Game Some of you may remember two ringers, when your buddy would call your

house and let the phone ring two times then hang up. This code was to let you know about some hot DX that was on the air. Of course you would not dare answer the telephone before the second ring for fear of someone incurring a long distance charge. Today, through the use of the internet we can utilize real-time DX spotting networks to find out which stations are on the air. If you have your rig interfaced with your PC using the appropriate software the network will automatically switch your transceiver to the DX's operating frequency.

The internet has enhanced the DX game in other ways by providing Dxpediton log information on line while the Dxpediton is still in operation. This helps eliminate the "insurance" QSOs and allows the Dxpediton work as many stations as possible while limiting the number of duplicate contacts.

There are software programs available that monitor the DX cluster and if a needed DX station is spotted you will receive an e-mail alert on your Blackberry or other personal e-mail device. How cool is that? Just look at it as the digital version of the two ringer DX alert.

Contesting and Awards

ARRL's Logbook of The World would not be possible without internet technology. LoTW's use of public and private keys lets users all over the world to upload electronically signed logs and when QSOs are matched the users receive credit for their contacts to be used toward awards. More information about Logbook of the world can be found on the ARRL website. < <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> >

Contest scores are now published on the internet allowing participants to quickly sort and analyze the data.

Public Service

A variety of public service groups such as ARES use the internet to call up volunteers, maintain databases of people and equipment available for disasters and to inform the public of their services.

Being able to transmit digital information via radio and then inject it into the internet electronic mail system has allowed radio amateurs to move messages much faster than was possible using the antiquated relay system.

Licensing and Education

Today many people will prepare for their Amateur Radio license exam by using one of the many practice exam websites. These sites will randomly quiz the user from the VEC question pools and score the results. This undoubtedly eases some of the test jitters and exposes areas of strength and weakness.

ARRL offers an on-line license class for those applicants who may have scheduling conflicts with traditional classes or just enjoy doing things at their own pace. < <http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html> >

In addition to licensing courses ARRL offers a series of Emergency Communications courses (EmComm Level I, II, III) and other subjects

such as Antenna Modeling, Radio Frequency Interference and HF Digital Communications. < <http://www.arrl.org/cep/> >

On The Air

The Internet Repeater Linking Project (IRLP), Echolink and remote base stations could not exist without the internet. These technologies have opened the world of Amateur radio to a whole new group of users as well as offered areas of experimentation to seasoned radio amateurs.

Adaptability

Traditionally the Amateur Radio service has always made use of whatever was available. Whether salvaging parts from discarded television sets in the 1950s, repurposing surplus military equipment in the 1960s or integrating electronic hardware today, hams have always utilized technology in creative ways to suit their needs. An internet connection in the ham shack is as common as the J-38 straight key once was. The fact that you are reading this e-letter demonstrates the positive influence the internet and computers have had on Amateur Radio.

WAYS TO HELP



Good Neighbor #
11636

As previously announced Kroger has a new Neighbor to Neighbor program. This program will pay out \$1 million to organizations in Texas and Louisiana proportionately based on purchases between May 1, 2008, and April 30, 2009. In order to get us in on the action you will need to print the customer letter which can be found at: <http://www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com/pdf/10000081152.pdf>

Then take the letter to the Kroger store and have the cashier scan it after he/she scans your KrogerPlus card. You only need to do this once. We will then receive credit for your purchases during the duration of the program. Payout to the organizations will be after April 30, 2009.

Thanks for your support of the GARC.

73,
Bill Engel K5DHY

Minutes of the July Meeting

By Lowell Allen

The July GARC Meeting was called to order by Bill Engle K5DHY at just after 7:30 with the pledge led by Grady. The June minutes were approved as printed and the Board members made their reports. Be sure and check out all of John Galvin's public service requests on the website. There are many opportunities to go out and play using all those "toys" you have collected and every event benefits a different worthy cause. Be sure and start planning on the White Rock Marathon on December 14 as our own Bob Jones W5BJ is going to need a bunch of help for that nationally known event.

Old Business: Ralph Brown KA5KVF reported on Field Day activities including that almost 40 people that came out to the park. As mentioned previously, the club is having a First Saturday "Get on the Air" in the ECC from 9 AM until noon. Come on out and use the equipment, check out your own, or just to help (or learn from) those who do show up.

New Business: Because of the dollar limit for Board approval, the club as a whole was asked, and approved, to spend both the \$320 for Equipment Insurance through ARRL and \$59 plus shipping to replace a worn out roller inductor for the ECC antenna tuner. We voted in 3 new members, Mark Bushnell AD5FG, Mark Collins KB5RXL and Mary Marvin KE5OYG. A big welcome to all.

Speakers: Tom Blackwell N5GAR gave a short report on ARRL happenings with a few pictures from a NWS balloon launch. He is still working with other ARRL Section Managers on a state law to limit the ability of "Homeowner" Associations to dictate the limits of antennas for amateur operation. Then our guest speaker, Dave Jaska W0VX, gave a very informative program on the intricacies and tricks of good DXing. Meeting broke up about 9:25.

The August Board Meeting was held on the 11th, with reports from Garland Newman W5IDN that our guest speaker for August 25th will be Phil Salas

AD5X presenting a program on Easy to Build Ham Radio Gadgets. The September 22nd meeting will be Gary Woodal from the NWS in Ft. Worth, appropriately since that is the first day of fall. Swank Roberts WA5GNT noted his Sunday afternoon class for Tech and General still has plenty of room if any one is interested. Bill Engle K5DHY displayed the Letter of Appreciation from the City of Garland for our efforts at the Star Spangled Fourth. There was some round table discussion on how to increase our visibility and to attract more members. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Maximize your television reception

The AntennaWeb.org mapping program, provided by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), locates the proper outdoor* antenna to receive your local television broadcast channels.

Based on geographical maps and signal strengths, AntennaWeb locates the best antenna for you — whether the antenna is for use with a home satellite system, high-definition television (HDTV) or a traditional analog set.

Get started!

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

Minutes of the August 2008 Meeting

By Lowell Allen

The August GARC Meeting was called to order by Bill Engle K5DHY at just before 7:30 with the pledge led by Bill Fox WR5FOX. The July minutes were postponed for approval since they did not get in the ARCLITE. The Board members made their reports. Be sure and check out all of John Galvin's public service requests on the website. Any of these events is a great way to introduce your friends, or anyone you know who has expressed any interest at all in Amateur Radio, to the hobby and the way we go about doing our communications. The Plano Balloon Festival on September 19 – 21 is especially good for this kind of publicity and growing the club. Keep December 14 on your calendar for the White Rock Marathon as our own Bob Jones W5BJ is going to need a bunch of help for that nationally known event. Old Business: As mentioned previously, the club is having a First Saturday "Get on the Air" in the ECC from 9AM until Noon. Come on out and use the equipment, check out your own, or just to help (or learn from) those who do show up. This is in addition to the Third Saturday "visit and greet" get together at the ECC, also from 9AM until Noon. New Business: Thanks to Don Reznicek KE5FWK for offering to rework the sign on the ECC door. We voted in a new member,

Gary McHam N5BLV, welcome. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:49 PM for a 10 minute break and unofficially reconvened for our guest speaker, Phil Salas AD5X, who gave a great show and tell on "Easy to Build Ham Radio Gadgets" (and also quite useful).

The September Board Meeting was held on the 8th at 7PM, and the only voting was to keep the same day (2nd Monday) and time (7PM) for the board meeting. Garland Newman W5IDN confirmed that our guest speaker for the September 22nd meeting will be Gary Woodal from the NWS in Ft. Worth, appropriately since that is the first day of fall. The October after meeting special will be the annual auction. See announcement from the president about a Christmas / Holiday Party in December. Swank Roberts WA5GNT noted his Sunday afternoon class from 2 – 5 PM for Tech and General still has plenty of room if any one is interested. Again this month there was some round table discussion on how to increase our visibility and to attract more members. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

AN EXCERPT FROM <http://www.arrl.org/sections/NTX.html>

THANKS TO N5GAR ARRL NTX NEWS and INFORMATION

Ed McGinley, W5ETM, of Tarrant County, has accepted the position of Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. This appointment was recommended by Bill Swan, K5MWC, of

Rockwell-Collins, the SEC. [ASEC.](#)

Congratulations to Francis Gradijan, KD5HTB, of Carrollton, winner of a \$1500 10-10 International Net Scholarship.

Congratulations to Kevin Knight, KD7MSX, Valedictorian of the Whitesboro High School. He is now at the Red McCombs School of Business at The Univeristy of Texas at Austin. Click here (and see page 6): [K5GCC Newsletter.](#)

The Dallas Morning News published an article on the 2008 Hamcom convention, with a color photograph. Click here: [Hamcom News.](#)

Congratulations to Austin Wilmot, KD5QKS, winner of the 2008 Goldfarb Scholarship. He is a graduating Senior at the Richardson High School. Awarded to one high school senior each year, the scholarship enables the recipient to receive a four-year undergraduate degree in engineering or science or in the medical or business-related fields. Here are 3 links: [Goldfarb Scholarship | Richardson Wireless Klub article | Scholarship article](#)

TEXAS AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE PLATES: An agency web page explains the procedure. Click here: [Texas License Plates.](#)

Route 66 On The Air

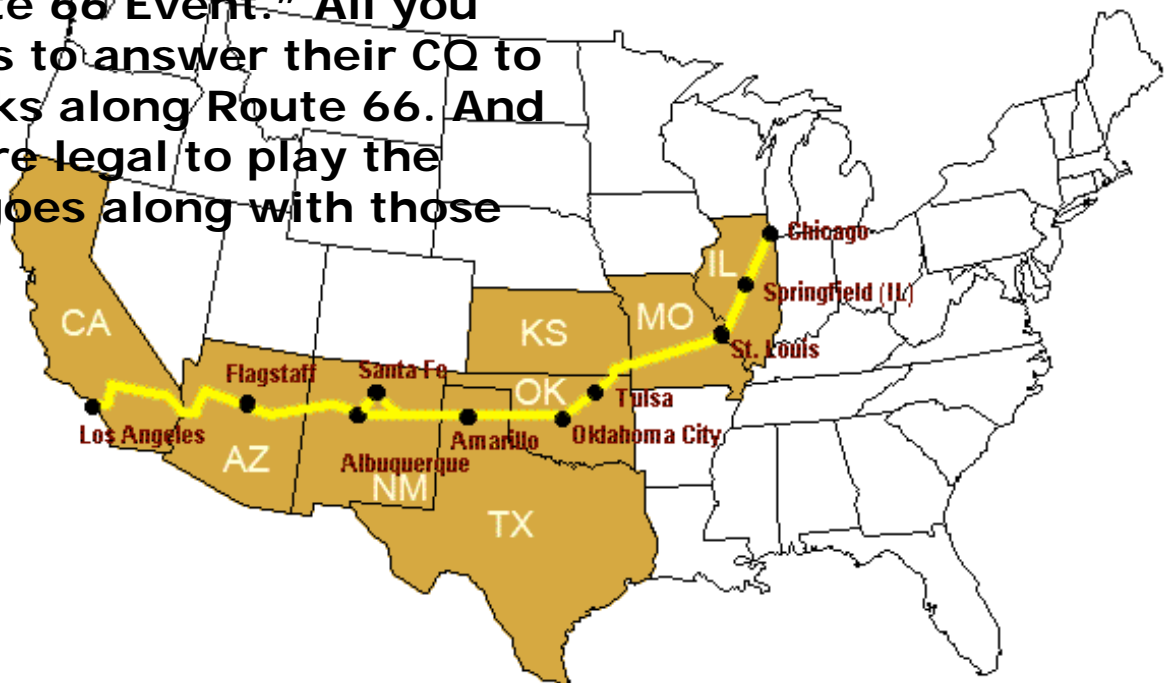
The **Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club** of San Bernardino, California will host the 9th Annual *'Route 66 On The Air'* Special Event.

The operation includes 18 stations and two rovers operating in and around major cities along the old Route 66 from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois.

Official station call designations will begin with W6A in Santa Monica and end with the letter assigned to the final operator taking part.

The rover stations will be on September 13th from 0001 UTC to 2400 UTC on September 21st. Frequencies will all be on or near those ending in the number 66 using all available modes.

QSL information is on the web at www.w6jbt.org. Just click on the words "Route 66 Event." All you need to do is to answer their CQ to get your kicks along Route 66. And if only it were legal to play the music that goes along with those



GARC GENERAL INFO

Repeaters:

The GARC operates two open repeaters for its 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: Bill Engel K5DHY

president@k5qhd.org

Vice President: Garland Newman W5IDN

vp@k5qhd.org

Secretary: Lowell Allen KD5RFD

secretary@k5qhd.org

Treasurer: Wayne Williams WT5J

treasurer@k5qhd.org

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comm@k5qhd.org

Education Officer: Swank Roberts WA5GNT

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editor@k5qhd.org

CONTACT THE BOARD AT board@k5qhd.org

[For More Info call \(972\) 272-4499](tel:972-272-4499)

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!!!

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.