

Public Service Events

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.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 8 is the Hot Rocks bike ride in Rockwall and they need all the ham radio help they can get. They start at 6am and finish about noon. It all helps the Rockwall Rotary Club support the youth in the area. It's a great opportunity to get in some net practice too. Food and T-shirt included. Duties include sag wagon, rest stop and very dangerous intersection patrol. This is a great event for the New hams too -- No experience is necessary !!! If you can help, please contact Scott ASAP with your call, your name, phone number and if you have a UHF mobile and / or Handheld (CRF-M and/or S) . An email with all the event details will go out about a week before the event. Thanks for the help -- you DO make a difference! Scott Hammond, KK5PP shammond@airmail.net.

Saturday, August 15 the Dallas ARC is providing radio communications support for this Red Hot Chili Pepper Bike Ride to support the Calumet Community Center. The ride will start and end at the Calumet Center (MAPSCO 52H). The ride has routes for 20, 40, and 60 miles. The routes will travel southwest out of Dallas and will journey through the Joe Pool Lake area. The rally will start at 7:30 am. For more information or to sign up for this event please contact Kevin Harkins, at w5djk1@gmail.com.

Monday, September 7 is the second Annual Blacklands Triathlon. Last year they had nearly 500 participants for the first year. This year they hope to be better organized, and have more people. Radio operators are needed from about 6:00 a.m. until Noon. We will know more as the event gets closer, but we need about 6 shadows, 18 on the course, and 2 for net control. Reserve the date. Contact Kipton Moravec - AE5IB at kip@kdream.com or 214-929-8121.

Saturday, September 12 is the Tour De Cure Bike Ride benefiting the American Diabetes Association and its research. The ride will be held at Texas Motor Speedway. The event website is here: tour.diabetes.org/site/TR/TourdeCure/. HAM ops interested can contact Greg Evans at kd5mno@yahoo.com.

ISSUE

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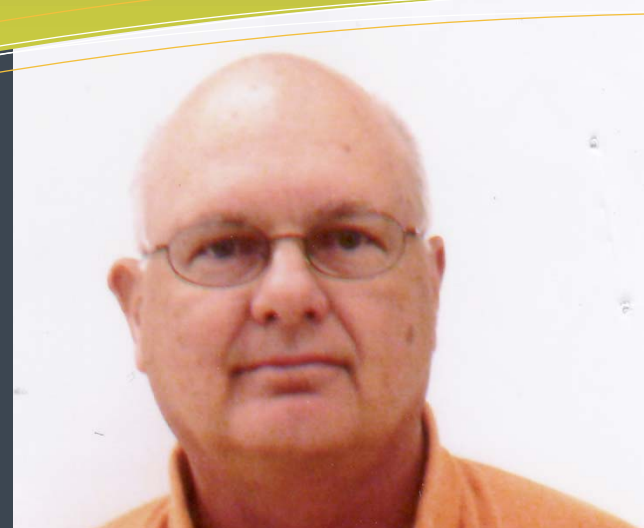
K5QHD
Garland Amateur Radio Club
Where Amateur Radio
is fun again!!!

The Arclite

Repeater News

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.

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."



President's Pen

Thanks to everyone who made Field Day 2009 a success for the Garland Amateur Radio Club. We had 183 phone QSOs at one point each, and 313 CW QSOs and 52 digital QSOs at 2 points each. Our total QSO points were 913. We had 1170 bonus points, which is almost the maximum possible, for a total point score of 2083. Special thanks go to the Dunnings, Randy KC5QHH for being the overall chairman and Karen W4YHN for the excellent job with the food.

Another big thank you to George Norwood, KE5KDO, for filling in for our Education Office Swank Roberts, WA5GNT, during Swank's illness. George is continuing our club's philosophy of teaching Ham Radio and not just the answers to the test questions.

You've probably noticed an occasional announcement on our repeater. This capability is possible because of our repeater controller and the digital voice recorder purchased with your

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The Arclite Issue 07 July 2009



Garland Amateur Radio Club
Emergency Communications Center
(ECC)
1027 Austin Street Suite B.
Garland, TX. 75040-5608
Where Ham Radio is Fun Again!

**K5QHD is the Bill Folsdtadt
Memorial Station**

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.

donations to the repeater fund. As we learn more of the capabilities of the controller you may hear some additional functionality being used.

The public service event calendar seems to be filling up early this year with the late summer and fall events. One of the principle objectives of amateur radio is to provide services to the public, especially in times of emergency (Section 97.1 FCC rules). Participation as communicators in public service events gives us the opportunity to improve our skills and to be prepared to operate in a real emergency situation. Check the schedule in this newsletter and please consider honing your skills at one or more of these events.

Although not a part of the GARC, the Garland Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) plays



GARC May 2009 Meeting Minutes

The May GARC Meeting was called to order by Bill Engle K5DHY on the 25th at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bob Jones W5BJ. Introductions were made and we were pleased to have a number of guests. The minutes were approved as printed and the Board members made their reports. E H reported for Ralph Brown, K5WRB that the new working controller is now installed along with a new repeater. Be sure and check out all of N5TIM John Galvin's public service requests available from the club website (www.k5qhd.org). Randy Dunning, KC5QHH said plans for Field Day were coming together and we will be at the older location, closer to parking and the rest rooms. Our guest speaker, Dale Finley KB5NFT, presented a very good program on D-Star

The June Board Meeting was held on Saturday the 6th at 9AM. We agreed that our topic for the next meeting on Monday, June 22nd will be Field Day 2009 chaired by Randy Dunning, KC5QHH. Ralph Brown K5WRB is so relieved that the new repeater controller is up and running. Bob Brunskill, KC5GMZ reported that we received a check from Kroger for a little over \$115 for the full year of their new schedule. Be sure and resign up for your Kroger account for this next period, the club appreciates the donations, and it does not cost you, the member, anything at all. There was discussion about how we can keep aware of major life changing situation such as when one of members go into the hospital. The best way was determined to be sending an email to board@k5qhd.org. We then talked about sending out post cards to encourage attendance at Field Day and to make sure all Garland Hams were familiar with the club. The board approved \$200 for mailing and another \$200 for an advance for food for Field Day. We all sure hope to see everyone stop by and get on the air.

Respectfully Submitted, Lowell Allen, Jr. KD5RFD

Junior Diabetes Expanded 3 Walk Event

Saturday, September 26 is the 2009 Junior Diabetes Expanded 3 Walk Event (One Day - 3 Walks – 3 Locations – Simultaneously!) Thanks to the great job the Amateur Radio Community has done supporting the Dallas JDRF walk in the past few years, we have been asked this year to expand our involvement and provide communications for all the Dallas and Collin County JDRF Walks!

In addition, the Dallas walk has outgrown the AA Center and is being split into two walks, one along the Katy Trail starting at the AA Center and another larger walk at a second location in Los Colinas on the combined Birds Fort Trail and Spring Trail Parks. Contact Steve Darrah at jsdarrah@verizon.net to sign up for the Los Colinas Walk. The Collin County Walk starts at the Granite Park location near HWY 121 and the Tollway. Contact Tony Campbell at w5adc@yahoo.com to sign up for the Collin County walk. All three walks are 5K in length. As two of the walks are on trails, this will present some new challenges and opportunities for the operators, one example are the possible uses of bicycles or foot operators for lead and tail positions on the trail courses. Each walk will have between 3-4 rest stops to support and numerous shadow positions. It's too early to tell for sure but we hope most all positions can use HT's. We are in need of a lot more volunteers this year to cover all three simultaneous s walks, the AA center walk has needed about 16-18 operators each year and it's likely the two additional walks will need close to those numbers as well. Each walk will require a site communications coordinator and net control so if you have an interest in helping to assist with the planning and execution of these events or filling a net control position please let me know as soon as possible. For more information please contact John Will at w5ej@arrl.net or phone 214-316-5563.



President's Pen Continued

an important role in the community. Many members of GARC are also RACES appointees. The Garland RACES web site at <http://garlandr.s412.sureserver.com> has information on joining RACES. The web site also has an abundance of technical information useful for any ham.

See you at the meeting.

73,
Bill

Next meeting's speaker is Larry Essary K5XG. His topic: Grounding RF and AC, You Can Never Have Enough.



GARC OFFICERS

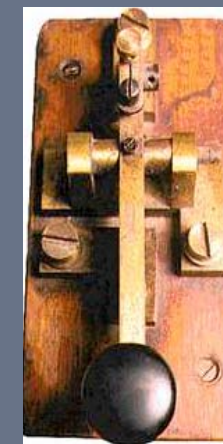
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president@k5qhd.org

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For More Info call (972) 272-4499

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trustee@k5qhd.org

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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 3rd weekend 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.



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.rowletttraces.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 John Galvin's public service page at <http://www.qsl.net/n5tim/uplist.html>.

GARC June 2009 Meeting Minutes

The June GARC Meeting was called to order by Bill Engle K5DHY on the 22nd at 7:30. (The rest of the minutes from this meeting will be published when I run across them again. Sorry, Lowell) Be sure and check out all of N5TIM John Galvin's public service requests available from the club website (www.k5qhd.org). Instead of having a guest Speaker, Randy Dunning, KC5QHH gave everyone there good reason to come out for Field Day in a slide show and talk.

The July Board Meeting was held on Saturday the 11th at 9AM. We first heard from Swank Roberts WA5GNT by telephone. He is recovering from some medical problems in Alvarado with some of his family and hopes to be back in Garland soon. The board discussed an offer to buy our spare set of repeater cans, but it was decided we should hold on to them for now. Bob Brunskill, KC5GMZ reported on the treasury. He noted that the grocery store refund contributions from Tom Thumb and Kroger have been most helpful. Be sure and resign up for your Kroger account for this next period, starting July 1, 2009. (Tom Thumb is a continuing program once you have it associated with your Reward card). The club appreciates the donations, and it does not cost you, the member, anything at all. Bob then brought up the cost of our Liability Insurance is \$320 and is above the limit that can be approved by the board alone. Look for it to be voted on at the July 27th meeting. Field Day went well, but it was HOT. The picnic was enjoyed by everyone and special thanks go out to those who helped with set up and tear down. The club was given the weather station that had been at the old EOC and there will be a work party to clean it up, do some rewiring, and put it up on the tower at our ECC. There was some discussion of how much use, and how much interest, there is in a 900 MHz repeater. It was decided to discuss it more at the regular meeting in a couple of weeks. Due to the condition of the back up batteries in the EOC (1 dead, and the other poor) we are looking into buying two large back-up batteries the have come out of cell phone tower use.

Respectfully Submitted, Lowell Allen, Jr. KD5RFD

FROM SWANK: **HMMM... HEROES: What a guy in a boat does.**



The iMac: Will ham radio be the same?

By K9JY <http://k9jy.com> Reprinted with permission

Well, I took the plunge. I bought an iMac. Interestingly, it was over two months ago, but I haven't gotten around to doing any ham radio stuff with it yet. Too busy getting the rest of it setup for the business ([Cube Rules](#)). I've seen a bit of software out there for ham radio on the Mac, but I haven't tried any of it out just yet. What I have seen looks compatible with my interfaces I already have, including Log of The World — but I haven't tested any of it yet.

Why Apple?

Windows started to fail with the advent of the iPod. It was the first sense I had that Apple was about cool tools and not about big platforms. Windows was always about platforms, not making things work. And work it was — I spent a great deal of time getting anti-virus software, cleaning registry software for performance, getting hard drives taken care of and chasing quirky problems that always showed up at the wrong time. Months would go by while searching Google for the Forums where someone finally came up with a solution that really worked. After searching hundreds of entries with the same problem identified as I would have — with no answers.

Usually the answer for a Windows problem was simple: reformat the hard drive. Right. Just what I want to do... Then came the iPhone. The iPhone made it quite apparent to me that I didn't need my Windows laptop with me when I went away except for DXpeditions and to access my business sites to enter in articles like this and doing maintenance work (which, of course, the passwords won't export over to Windows so the K9JY site was down much of my vacation...).

Then, in a ThinkPad (I've always had ThinkPads here) that Kate uses started to simply lock up for no reason. First it was once or twice a day. Then it was every hour. Once it hit every hour, we made sure we had everything off the computer (I have always done backups, but when you have time to really look, you discover other stuff that needed backing up!).

Finally, the thing wouldn't boot up at all. In the meantime, over the month this was happening, we had done everything except reinstall Windows and replace the drive. Well, once you get to that point, you have to seriously reconsider your assumptions about your platform.

And, to be fair, Kate and I decided not to go to Windows with the next computers we would get. As soon as we were ready to replace the laptops — in a couple of years — that would be that. I had no intention of going to Vista or whatever else comes up out of Microsoft. But the laptop giving up the ghost in just over a year means (to me) that everything is coming up crap — sure, Windows computers are cheap, but everything is so fragile in software and hardware components that the probability of failure is extremely high.

So, we walked into the Apple store and got an iMac. Then, two weeks after that, my laptop started having intermittent issues. Here we go. ((Continued on page 4.



Scot Herrick
K9JY

AREA VEC TEST

Mac's and Ham Radio Continued

How did the ECC come to be? By Bob Jones, W5BJ

23-Jul-2009
Sponsor: K8DNE VE TEAM
Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: WILLIAM H REYNOLDS
(972)475-3854
Email: WH.REYNOLDS@VERIZON.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: FREEMAN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
1120 N GARLAND AVE
BETWEEN WALNUT & BUCKINGHAM
GARLAND, TX 75040

08-Aug-2009
Sponsor: DALLAS ARC
Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: LARRY W HERRING
(214)614-8980
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: BUSINESS JET CENTER
8611 LEMMON AVENUE
2ND FLOOR CAFETERIA
DALLAS, TX 75209

09-Aug-2009
Sponsor: NORTH TEXAS VE TEAM
Time: 2:00 PM (No walk-ins)
Contact: RICHARD M RAITT
(972)881-0380
Email: WA5VKS@WT.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: 4TH HOUSE ON LEFT EAST OF AVENUE P
1713 ARMSTRONG DR
PRE-REG 24 HRS AHEAD OF TIME
PLANO, TX 75074

15-Aug-2009
Sponsor: PLANO AMATEUR RADIO TESTING
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOHN C SCANLAN
(972)442-2592

Except I went to the Apple store and bought another iMac for me. And, when we get enough dollars, we are getting two Apple Notebooks and that will be that. And good riddance to the Windows stuff as well.

My level of stress in administering my business is much less since Apples arrived. I only have to deal with the infrastructure of the web sites and updating that software. Not updating Windows and the five thousand programs you need to really manage Windows. Not chasing after intermittent problems Windows cause that drive you crazy because all you want to do is your work, not administering Windows maintenance and troubleshooting.

Apple, of course, is not perfect. No company or software is. But the approach is quite different with Apple: a bulletproof operating system (yes, I know it isn't bulletproof, but that is the approach...) with a set of other tools to get stuff done. It has been both more difficult to make the transition to an Apple (why, for example, does Office for Mac not look anything at all like Office 2007 and why doesn't Microsoft offer Outlook in the package? Just mystifying...) and much easier to transition. It's easier to transition because once you get the hang of the tools and get over that learning curve, you aren't worried about whether or not the operating system will fail.

One of the last issues holding me back from making the transition to Apple was the fact that most ham radio software is built to run on Windows. And since I am much associated with WriteLog, even though I didn't write the program, the whole DXpedition, contesting, writing about WriteLog becomes much more interesting.

But, all of that wasn't enough to overcome my constant frustration with Windows and all the setup the software requires you to do to get anything to work. And, trust me, I know more about computers than your average bear. For me to get that frustrated tells you a lot about the state of the PC world.

So I've jumped the Windows ship and now look to do ham radio with a Mac. Any good suggestions on software to get going? I need it all — contesting, logging, Log of The World, digital modes, controlling a Yaesu FT-1000 PM and more. I'm ready to dive in.

Any suggestions?



Information contained in the following paragraphs explain to the best of my recollection how the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) came about. If anyone else has a different account, please come forward and let's discuss.

The ECC in Garland began in 1967 when there were two amateur radio operators on the Garland city council; Floyd Klee, WA5DFP, and Bob Jordan, WA5VOO - both were very active members in the GARC. I believe that Floyd and Bob's terms overlapped a two-year period between 1967 and 1969. Both realized the need for back up communications in that Garland had no means to communicate outside of the City should primary communications (telephones at that time) be disrupted. Floyd and Bob worked jointly with city manager, Charlie Duckworth, to secure a permanent facility suitable to set up radio communications primarily with Austin. The facility must be easily accessible at all times and must be suitable for housing amateur radio type equipment including antennas and high power transmitters. It was agreed that the City would provide the facility and the GARC would provide the equipment and staffing and would maintain the inside portion. The City would not provide funding of any type.

Until 1978 individuals furnished equipment used in the ECC. The same was true with Field Day. In 1978, the GARC purchased a Kenwood, TS-520, and, except for a few wire antennas, this was the first piece of equipment dedicated to the ECC. Around 1979, the 75-foot utility pole (still in place) was installed in front of the ECC primarily for the GARC 2 meter repeater antenna and for HF antennas. Our repeater frequency at that time was 146.775 / 146.175. The repeater was located at the ECC until moved (with a brief stopover at the water tower at Shiloh and Forest Ln.) to its present location at the hospital. It was understood early on that the ECC could be used not only to house emergency communications equipment, but could also be used for training and for regular GARC meetings. Many, many classes have been conducted in this facility through the years. Boll Folstadt, W5KUY; Floyd Jester, KE5ZC; Rick England, WA5KYY; H.C. Pritchard, K5RAC; Jim Hester, K5HTK; and Gene Barnard, W5QPP, were some of the early instructors in the GARC.

Prior to the ECC, monthly GARC meetings were held at various places. For several years we met at the National Guard Armory on Glenbrook. Between 1967 and 1976 regular monthly meetings were held in the ECC. In 1977 we outgrew the ECC and moved our regular meetings to the present location - The Women's Activities Bldg.

Through the years the ECC has seen many types of activities. One of the most memorable was immediately after the Mexico City earthquake. We were able to establish contact with a strong station in Mexico City and over a period of four days, we handled many pieces of health and welfare traffic from Mexico City to various points in the USA. GTE (as it was then) installed a temporary telephone line to the ECC and all calls were made at no charge. A young, Spanish speaking, lady worked with us throughout the time as our communicator and interpreter.

Through the years, the ECC has proven to be a valuable asset to the GARC and Garland RACES. In turn, the City depends on us to provide back up communications during times of emergencies. Therefore, it is incumbent on us as GARC and Garland RACES members to maintain the ECC in a serviceable and presentable condition at all times. We are very fortunate to have a very positive relationship with the city we serve.



Email: JOHN.SCANLAN2@VERIZON.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: WYLIE METHODIST CHURCH
1401 FM 1378
WYLIE, TX 75098

15-Aug-2009
Sponsor: IRVING ARC, INC.
Time: 8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: CHARLES J BEAUPRE
(972)745-8456
Email: CBNETT1@SBCGLOBAL.NET
VEC: W5YI VEC
Location: BETCHA BINGO #2/MAPSCO 31A-Q
2420 W IRVING BLVD
CALL DENNIS @
972-255-8187
OR: DOYLE @
972-579-9089
IRVING, TX 75061

27-Aug-2009
Sponsor: K8DNE VE TEAM
Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: WILLIAM H REYNOLDS
(972)475-3854
Email: WH.REYNOLDS@VERIZON.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: FREEMAN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
1120 N GARLAND AVE
BETWEEN WALNUT & BUCKINGHAM
GARLAND, TX 75040