



COMMUNICATOR

Volume XI, April 2012

Arlington Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1702, Arlington, Texas 76004-1702

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April Program

The April program will be a lighthearted survey of some of the weirder questions from the question pools for the Amateur Radio exams. Extras, I bet there are some Technician questions that might throw you and Techs, maybe you know more than you think and can answer some of the General and Extra questions. Also, if there's a particular question that you've been having problems understanding, bring that along and one of our knowledgeable old timers can explain it.

April Announcements

Tornadoes!

Unless you were under anesthetic having your neck fused together, you probably know about the tornadoes and hail that we had on April 3rd. The ARRL website (www.arrl.org) had a nice write up on the role that Amateur Radio played during the disaster. You can read about it here:

www.arrl.org/news/north-texas-hams-respond-when-tornados-strike.

AARC members played important roles during the response. Jerry, W5MAY, is ARRL North Texas District Emergency Coordinator (District 4) and coordinated RACES operations (from San Antonio!), Linda, W5LMC, responded to the City of Arlington EOC during the storm and the next day was also called in to secure, coordinate and schedule CERT volunteers for the EOC and for the tornado recovery center. Thru Monday, volunteers had put in over 400 hours. Volunteers included Joyce, W5FJB, and Jack, W5JCK. Chris, K5LTX, was the first to spot and report a funnel cloud/tornado at 287 and I-20. David, W5DJO, spent several days delivering messages and patrolling damaged areas with the Arlington PD's Citizens on Patrol program. I know I missed some participants but thanks to everyone for a job well done.

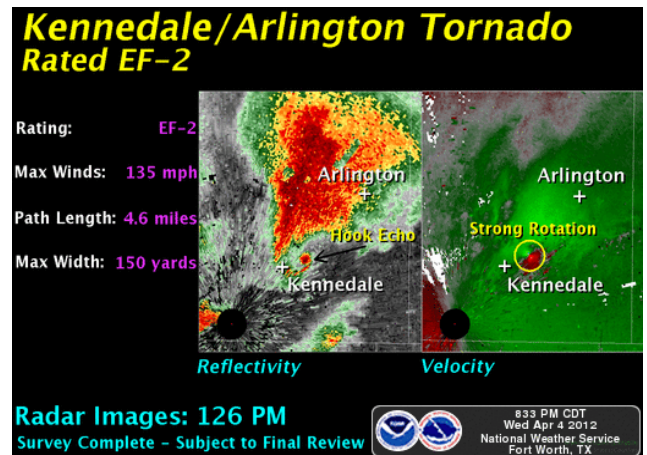


Image from <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/?n=april32012kennedalearlington>

Calendar of Events

April 20 Executive Board meeting – 6:30pm, 501 W. Sanford. This is an open meeting, everyone is encouraged to attend.

April 20 General Membership meeting – 7:30pm, 501 W. Sanford

April 21 VE Testing – 10:00am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on the North side of the building.

April 21 Dining out – 5:00pm, Spring Creek BBQ, 3806 S. Cooper St.

May 5 1st Saturday Breakfast – 8:30am, Rise and Shine - 1815 West Pioneer Parkway

May 5 VE Testing – 10:00am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on the North side of the building.

May 18 Executive Board meeting – 6:30pm, 501 W. Sanford

May 18 General Membership meeting – 7:30pm, 501 W. Sanford

Fourth of July

Via Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB

July 4th is just around the corner....and we are looking for some great volunteers!

We will again need volunteers for the Parade for both fixed and mobile positions and the announcer booths...but we have two special assignment spots. We will get an opportunity to be in two "Eye in the Sky" monitoring positions on the parade route courtesy of the Arlington Police Department. These are the elevated monitoring trailers that are seen in many a high profile area to have a high watch over an area. To be able to be in the air-conditioned booth, the two volunteers must be trained by the Police Department and sign a waiver. One will be on Pecan Avenue and one will be on Center Street. This will be a unique vantage to see and report on events related to the Parade. Please get in touch with me so that the training and coordination can be organized with the Arlington Police. Email is pbaumg1@sbcglobal.net or phone at 817-994-0320

Tidbits

Originally I had planned to have a write up from Jason, KD5LCT, on what he had planned for Field Day. As you know, in the past Jason has networked all the logging computers together and kept running totals displayed on a screen or on scrolling LED signs. This made the stations a little more competitive with each other and helped to raise our QSO totals the last couple of years. I felt that the story on the tornadoes was more important this month, so we'll devote a full page next month to Jason's plans. I've seen a preview and it will be great if he can make it happen.

Chris has provided me with a new club roster. I'm going to proofread it and it will be coming to you via email or snail mail shortly after the newsletter, hopefully before the meeting so that everyone will have a chance to look at it and update their information.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, see Chris at Friday's meeting and ensure your place on the 2012 Arlington ARC roster.

The last few newsletters had the membership meeting time as 7:00pm. That was an error, the monthly club meeting is officially at 7:30pm.

March 2012 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Andy KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on March 16th, 2012 at 6:30pm. Present were President, Dennis N5ACK; Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Rob NV5E; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW. Absent was the Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. (cont)

Chris K5LTX reported that he has an appointment scheduled for next week with a bank that will offer free small-business checking. This will allow the Club to avoid the monthly fee assessed by Chase Bank. Chris has also sent the donation to SafeHaven of Tarrant County.

Jason KD5LCT has added a new PayPal button to the Club's web page to allow the acceptance of donations.

Phil N5PWW will hold a testing session tomorrow. There is currently no training session in progress.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

March 2012 Membership Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Andy KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:30pm March 16th, 2012 by the President, Dennis N5ACK. Other Board members present included Vice President, Virginia NV5F; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Rob NV5E; Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT; and Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW. Absent was the Trustee, Maurice KM5RF.

Dennis N5ACK asked that the meeting attendees introduce themselves by name and call sign.

Chris K5LTX reviewed the financial report. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the financial report as published. Next week Chris plans to transfer the funds of the AARC to a new bank in an effort to avoid the fee of Chase Bank. Jason KD5LCT added a PayPal button the Club's web site so that the AARC can accept donations.

Phil N5PWW is not currently conducting a training session. He continues to hold test sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. A new question poll for the Extra Class will soon be taken in to use.

The minutes for the February meetings were submitted for publication in the March 2012 newsletter. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as published.

Bill AE5BT informed the Membership that Field Day 2012 will be held on June 23rd and 24th. Based on feedback from the Membership, the AARC Field Day activities will be held at the same Sanford Street location as last year.


Rob NV5E printed and distributed the newsletter.

A break was taken at 7:55pm. At 8:10pm the meeting resumed, and a presentation was given on D-STAR.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05pm.

The sign-in sheet showed 31 people in attendance, 28 indicating AARC membership.

AARC March 2012 Financial Report

 Arlington ARC		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
		Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	
Income							
Dues		\$12.50	\$0.00	\$578.00	\$295.00	\$100.00	
PayPal Dues		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$249.41	\$71.91	\$0.00	
Radio Raffle Dec 2011		\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Good & Welfare		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$19.00	\$12.00	
AT&T overpayment refund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
CD interest		\$0.31	\$0.31	\$0.21	\$0.25	\$31.00	
		\$12.81	\$175.31	\$839.62	\$386.16	\$143.00	
Expenses							
Storage Hut		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	
1-800-Flowers (G&W)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Bank fees		\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	
Bank fee donation		-\$15.00	-\$15.00	-\$15.00	-\$15.00	-\$15.00	
AT&T		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
FT2900 radio for Dec 2011 raffle		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2011 Field Day gas and supplies		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Donation		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SafeHaven donation		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Liability Insurance		\$320.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Web Hosting		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Arlington Yacht Club		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Flowers by Linda (G&W)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Chris Webster (club expenses)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Bank check order		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Printing supplies		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1 year PO Box fees		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Fry's - UPS for IRLP link PC		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
406-430 MHz yagi (to Maurice; IRLP; repeater fur		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Ham Radio Outlet (4 under door jumpers)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Accent Awards		\$0.00	\$49.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
		\$320.00	\$49.41	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$200.00	
Variance		-\$307.19	\$125.90	\$839.62	\$161.16	-\$57.00	
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
		Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	
General Fund		-\$307.50	\$125.59	\$827.41	\$141.91	-\$100.00	\$2,055.56
Repeater Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,211.90
Good & Welfare		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$19.00	\$12.00	\$641.40
Chase Checking		-\$307.50	\$125.59	\$839.41	\$160.91	-\$88.00	\$3,908.86
Chase CD		\$0.31	\$0.31	\$0.21	\$0.25	\$31.00	\$2,192.61
Total Chase Bank		-\$307.19	\$125.90	\$839.62	\$161.16	-\$57.00	\$6,101.47
Petty Cash		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Total - All Balances		-\$307.19	\$125.90	\$839.62	\$161.16	-\$57.00	\$6,126.47

Note: \$225.00 for 6 month's storage paid 2/22/2012; good through 8/31/2012.

Prepared by Chris Webster, K5LTX
Treasurer AARC since August 2009

Volunteers Needed to Help Test Warning Sirens

If you live or work in Arlington, chances are you have heard the wail of one of our warning sirens. In the event of severe weather, these sirens going off might save your life. But, what if they did not go off? Where would we be then?

Volunteer observers, working in conjunction with the Arlington Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, assist in the testing of the city's sirens on the first Wednesday of each month, weather permitting. Observers monitor and report on the RC repeater, K5SLD, 147.140 MHz, pl 110.9. There are provisions for call-in reports from non-ham observers as well.

If you have the time available, we would love to enlist your cooperation and radio expertise in this most necessary and rewarding effort. Your report of a malfunctioning siren just might mean the saving of a life or avoidance of bodily injury.

Siren observer lists are emailed to known participants 1 to 2 days in advance. Please monitor our 147.140 repeater starting about 11:45am. on the day of the test. Announcements begin at 12:15pm pm., and the formal net opens about 12:45pm on test day. All observers should be on location and checked in by that time. Testing begins at 1:00pm and is usually concluded by 1:20pm. You may join us at any time that you are able. Detailed maps in PDF and printed formats will be available upon request to assist you in locating the sirens. We particularly need observers in the western and southern parts of Arlington. For more information contact Linda, W5LMC, at L_mcmillen@prodigy.net or the Office of Emergency Management at 817-459-6939.

2012 Club Officers

President: Dennis McGrath N5ACK – n5ack@arrl.net – 972-352-6602

Vice President: Virginia Smith NV5F – pipertoo@earthlink.net – 601-467-5920

Secretary: Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA – kb2vqa@optonline.net – 817-652-0307

Treasurer: Chris Webster K5LTX – Chris.Webster@hcahealthcare.com – 817-480-2918

Editor: Rob May NV5E – nv5e@arrl.net – 817-303-8891

Training Coordinator: Phil Stage N5PWW – n5pww@sbcglobal.net – 817-465-5624

Emergency Coordinator: Bill Tatsch Jr. AE5BT – ae5bt@att.net – 817-467-4619

Trustee: Maurice Martin KM5RF – km5rf@att.net – 817-266-9906

Agent of Record: Phil Stage N5PWW – n5pww@sbcglobal.net – 817-465-5624

Web Master

Jason Archip KD5LCT – kd5lct@endofnet.com – 817-821-9510

Repeater Committee

Chairman Paul Baumgardner W5PSB

Maurice Martin KM5RF and Harold Reasoner K5SXX

Membership Application available at: http://k5sld.com/forms/aarc_membership_application.pdf