



COMMUNICATOR

March 2024

Arlington Amateur Radio Club • P.O. Box 1702, Arlington TX 76004-1702 • K5SLD.org

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Club Meetings

Meetings are held the third Friday of each month in the Human Services building located at:

501 W. Sanford in central Arlington at 7:30 p.m.

Members generally begin arriving at 7:00 pm.

The executive board meeting is held prior to the general member meeting at starting at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend the executive board meeting.

K5SLD Repeaters

147.14+ PL 110.9

224.8- PL 110.9

444.2+ PL 100.0

President's Corner

Welcome to March! Spring seems to have sprung early this year, and the weather is ripe for field work. POTA activations and FT8 have been the name of my game over the past month. Last year at this time I was just getting used to fox hunting, and the acronym POTA was unknown to me. This year I'm looking forward to weekends with good weather so that I can get out to a park, set up a field station, and get another activation! There's something immensely satisfying about going out with a small-ish antenna and, on just a few watts of power talk around the world. I hope to set up a club POTA event in the near future for those who would like to get in on the fun!

Last weekend was the Irving Ham Fest. It was good to go and see some club members, some old friends, and a variety of equipment. Maurice (KM5RF) was there, hunting for things that could help out the club. Irving awarded the micro grants for the year, and we were awarded our second grant for (half of) a new repeater antenna! Thanks to Jack (AA5VZ) for writing another good grant and keeping us moving!

There are a couple of things on the horizon. At our next meeting we'll have an update on Jack's remote radio adventures, and I'll be talking about direction finding. April 8th there will be a total solar eclipse passing right over our QTH. What does that have to do with ham radio you ask? HamSCI has organized a QSO party for the solar eclipse and will be using the results for studying the effects of radio propagation during an eclipse. It's a great time to see an eclipse, do radio, and help science all at the same time! See hamsci.org for details.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting!

- Joe Wigner, K5MGY
President AARC

Announcements

Bob Heil, K9EID, Silent Key

As some of you may recall, Bob was the guest speaker at one of our Club meetings a couple of years ago. The program was fun and enlightening, giving us some insight to his history and involvement with ham radio.

Heil was known for his passion for AM operations. He served for many years as an on-camera host of the Ham Nation podcast. Tributes to Heil have been flooding social media, including from his co-hosts.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said Heil's passing is a significant loss. "Bob Heil's technical achievements that brought high-quality audio to amateur radio pale in comparison to his generosity and willingness to help his fellow ham. He's long been known as someone eager to help mentor and teach. His legacy on our hobby will be long-lasting. "

Our thoughts are with his loved ones.

Winter Field Day 2024 Pics

In case you didn't get enough last month:



A little cool but still having fun!



Making some contacts.



March 2024 program

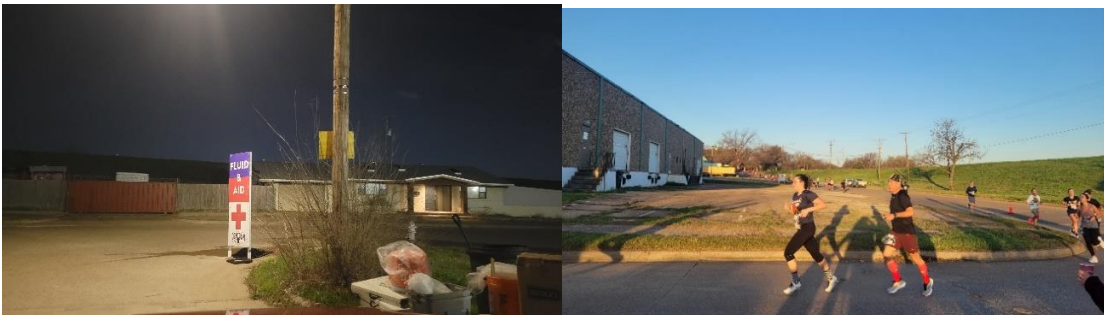
The scheduled March Program is "Direction Finding Basics", presented by Joe Wigner, K5MGY.

Items of Note

Report on the Cowtown Marathon

Scenes from The Cowtown 2024 by Philip Scoggins, KD5WBW

Saturday morning, February 24th, began at 5:30 AM. In the dark, there was nothing to do for a while. It's better to be there early than to get shut out by a road closure. It was much cooler than expected. Glad I wore long pants and had a coat.



There was not much radio traffic except to report there was only one volunteer. The medical staff helped and the station was set up and fluids handed out with no problems.

Sunday, February 25th, also started early but was somewhat hectic due to some unexpected events. This created radio traffic that in hindsight was not entirely necessary but probably good to report that the outhouses and fluid station were about 180 feet apart. There was no shortage of volunteers with 20 sorority sisters.



The outhouses seemed harder to notice in the dark.



The sorority sisters got bored near the end.



Someone with a sign and a cowbell, costumes by a runner and a bystander also with a cowbell, and some banjo music helped make the day. No, I didn't say "More..."

There was no problem with radio reception or transmission on either day, the repeaters worked fine. I didn't have to mess with my hand-held. Maybe I finally have it figured out.

Events

Solar Eclipse

Solar Eclipse One Month Away

A total solar eclipse that will be seen across North America will occur on Monday, April 8th. It will be the last of its kind in the US for the next 20 years.

Hams across North America are asked to participate in a study about how the ionosphere functions by getting on the air to help scientists in a series of ionospheric experiments.

Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) has presentations for hams interested in participating on Wednesday, March 27 at 8:00 PM (Eastern) - 5:00 PM (Pacific)*, and that same day at 10:00 PM (Eastern) - 7:00 PM (Pacific)*. Both 30-minute presentations will held on Zoom and they will feature HamSCI's Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science (FoEIS). The presenters will take your questions during the presentations.

Here is the [link to the presentations](#).

The program will start by covering HamSCI's basis and purpose, and quickly move into why they are conducting experiments, how hams and shortwave listeners (SWLS) can participate, and what they hope to learn from the event. Along the way, they will discuss why the science behind the event is important to users of the high-frequency radio spectrum - including amateur radio operators!

April 12 - 13 | [Green Country Hamfest 2024](#), hosting the ARRL Oklahoma State Convention, Claremore, Oklahoma

April 13, 2024 Belton Hamfest

Bell County Expo Center
301 Loop 121 Belton, TX 76513
[The Belton Hamfest](#)

Club Picnic

May 18th, 9:00AM to 2:00PM
J.W. Dunlop Park; North Park Pavilion
1500 W. Green Oaks Blvd
Arlington, TX 76012

As last year, the pavilion is available to us all day. Typically, we go from morning to mid-afternoon, but people are welcome to stay longer. We can bring our radios and practice for field day! Hot dogs/hamburgers and basics will be provided, but feel free to bring a side dish or dessert. Hope to see all of you there!

Newsletter Submissions

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the Saturday preceding the monthly club meeting. I would prefer receive them in Word format or in a text editor like Notepad. If you can avoid it please don't send it in PDF format, as it is a pain, to tear apart a PDF, if I need to change any formatting or make any edits.

Birthdays

Kent Anderson	3/4
Russell Frazier	3/17
Kathleen Holley	3/3
Darren Shelton	3/13

If I missed your birthday, let me know (I won't include the year, it makes me feel old) – Trey

Calendar of Events

March 15: Board Meeting 6:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford, Arlington, TX, 76011

All members are welcome attend.

March 15: General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, 501 W. Sanford, Arlington, TX, 76011

If you want to join via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87449290891?pwd=Q1RVV0MrOTg4OTVhck55Z0U5ZGFkdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 4929 0891

Passcode: 227012

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,87449290891#,,,,*227012# US (Houston)

+17193594580,,87449290891#,,,,*227012# US

Dial by your location

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

• +1 719 359 4580 US

• +1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 669 444 9171 US

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

• +1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 564 217 2000 US

• +1 646 931 3860 US

• +1 689 278 1000 US

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 874 4929 0891

Passcode: 227012

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87449290891>

==== Dining Out (March 16, 5:00PM) ====

Catfish Sam's, 2735 W Division St, Arlington, TX 76012

==== Breakfast (April 6, 8:30 am) ====

Pioneer Restaurant 306 109th St, Arlington, TX 76011

Testing:

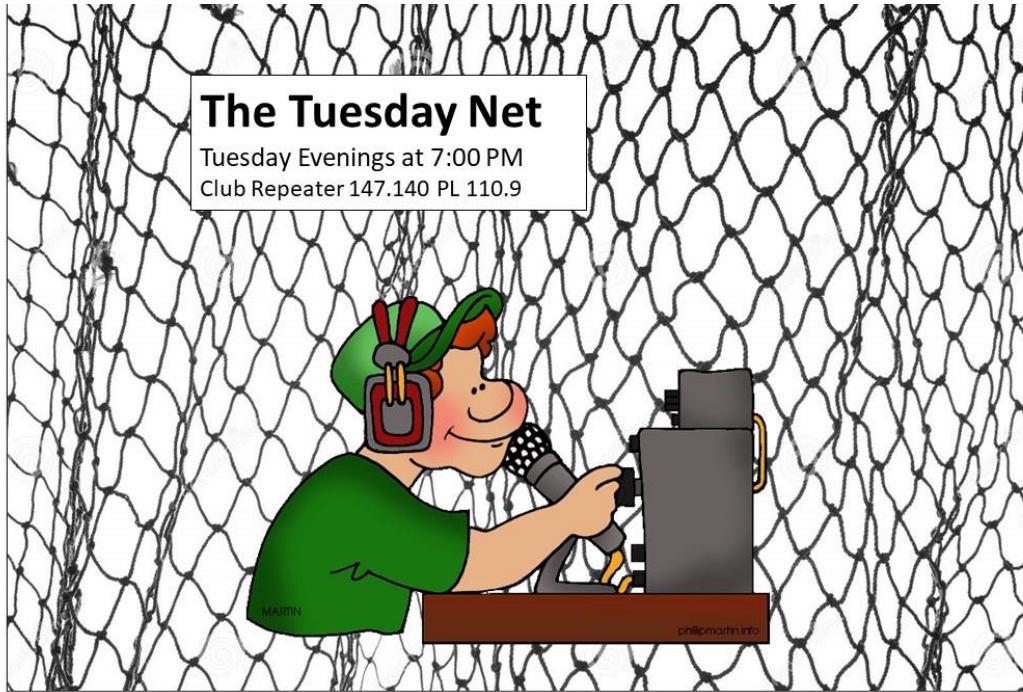
There is a \$14 cash fee for taking the test (if you pass and want to take the test for the next level, the \$14 covers the additional test(s) as well).

As of April 13, 2022 the FCC will begin charging an application fee of \$35.00 for license applications.

Also note you will need your FRN number and a valid email prior to taking that first test.

March 16: Testing - 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building.

April 6: Testing - 10:00 am, 401 W. Sanford. Enter on north side of the building



Join us for the Tuesday Net

 ACCENT AWARDS & TROPHIES 1815 W. PARK ROW • ARLINGTON, TX 76013 TROPHIES • PLAQUES • RIBBONS • ENGRAVING SIGNAGE • BADGES • ACRYLICS sales@accentawards.us 817.469.8791 www.accentawards.us	 NSRLD Arlington Texas DAVE W5DJO
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Need a Badge? \$10.95 + Tax

Warning sirens

The City of Arlington tests its outdoor warning sirens at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, using volunteer observers, most of whom are hams reporting into a net held on the AARC's 2m repeater (147.140+, PL 110.9). Check-ins begin during the noon hour, and the test typically concludes before 1:30 pm. More observers are always needed, so please consider helping with this valuable effort if you can spare about an hour at lunchtime once a month.

For more information, contact the Office of Emergency Management (817-459-6939).

Meeting Minutes

February 2024 Membership Meeting Minutes submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the membership of the AARC was called to order on February 16th, 2024, at 7:30 pm by the President, Joe K5MGY. Other board members present included Vice President, Price K5NNL; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer and Repeater Trustee, Maurice KM5RF; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; Emergency Coordinator, Clayton K5CWS; and Editor, Trey AF5XS.

Joe K5MGY called the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves by name and call sign.

Joe mentioned the upcoming Irving hamfest and Cowtown hamfest. The Cowtown Marathon will need help with radio operations.

Price K5NNL mentioned that Jack AA5VZ would be presenting the evening's program about using a Raspberry Pi computer to remotely operate radio equipment. Price is working on lining up presentations for March and April.

Andy KB2VQA noted that the February 2024 newsletter contained the minutes from the January meetings. A motion was made and carried accept the minutes as published.

Trey AF5XS compiled and distributed the newsletter for February 2024. Submission of ham radio related content is welcomed and should be submitted via email using his email address found on the last page of the newsletter.

Phil N5PWW noted that there are no classes scheduled. He continues to hold testing sessions in person promptly at 10 am on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 401 W. Sanford Street (use the entrance on the north side). An FRN is required before the test session.

Clayton K5CWS had nothing to report.

Philip KD5WBW, in the role of Public Information Officer, reported that the St. Paddy's Pickle Parade and Palooza is being held on March 16th. The fee to enter the parade is \$60 and due by February 19th.

Maurice KM5RF reviewed the financial report for January. When renewing the Zoom license, he has able to secure a discount through TechSoup due to the AARC 501(c)(3) status. A motion was made and carried to accept the report as published for audit.

Maurice reported that the repeater has intermittent issues. He will coordinate a time with Harold to visit the repeater site to change the configuration of the equipment. He is planning the installation of new feedline and an antenna.

Old business: Joe K5MGY mentioned that last month Philip KD5WBW informed the club of an opportunity for the club to participate in the Mansfield St. Paddy's Pickle Parade. Joe asked the club if there was interest among the club membership to participate. No interest was expressed by the membership

David Walker W5DJO continues to reactivate radio clubs at various Arlington hospitals. On a quarterly basis there is a hospital net to verify the amateur radio equipment installed at the hospital is functional. If members are interested in assisting David with the net, contact him by calling him at (817) 992-9459.

New business: No new business as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm. The sign-in sheet showed 24 people in attendance, 22 indicating AARC membership. Zoom attendees numbered 3.

The evening's presentation started at 8:15 pm. Jack AA5VZ presented "Part 3: Raspberry Pi in the Shack, remote station operation." The presentation concluded at 8:58 pm.

February 2024 Executive Board Meeting Minutes submitted by Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on February 16th, 2024, at 6:30 pm. Present were President, Joe K5MGY; Vice President, Price K5NNL; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer and Repeater Trustee, Maurice KM5RF; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; Emergency Coordinator, Clayton K5CWS; and Editor, Trey AF5XS.

Joe K5MGY called the meeting to order.

Joe expects to receive information from the Irving ARC in April regarding the Arlington ARC application to the micro-grant program. He reviewed the club activities during Winter Field Day. Joe was contacted by David Spore KB3UBD. David will reserve a park location for the club picnic to be held on Saturday, May 18th. David will donate to the club radio equipment he acquired from a silent key.

Price K5NNL mentioned that Jack AA5VZ would be presenting the evening's program on the topic of using a Raspberry Pi computer to remotely operate radio equipment. The Tuesday net has been run on the club repeater three times. Attendance has reached up to 15 participants.

Andy KB2VQA confirmed that the February 2024 newsletter contained the minutes from the January meetings.

Trey AF5XS published and distributed the newsletter.

Phil N5PWW continues to hold face to face testing sessions promptly at 10 am on the first and third Saturdays of the month in either room 110 or the 2nd floor conference room. Training classes are not being held.

Clayton K5CWS had nothing to report.

Maurice KM5RF reviewed the financial reports for January. He submitted the 990-N form. Maurice will coordinate a time with Harold to visit the repeater site. There will be a cleanup of nonfunctional equipment at the site.

Philip KD5WBW, in the role of Public Information Officer, reported that the deadline for entering the Mansfield Pickle Parade is February 19th. The event will be held on March 16th. The Mansfield radio club will need assistance with communications, and it's an opportunity for Arlington ARC members to volunteer. The Cowtown Marathon will also need assistance with communications and is being organized by RACES.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

February 2024 Financial Report

	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	BALANCE
BALANCE			
	1/31/2024		
		GENERAL FUND	1,856.82
		GOOD & WELFARE	849.13
		REPEATER FUND	817.35
		CHECKING	3,523.30
		SAVINGS	2,236.33
		PETTY CASH	25.00
		NET TOTAL	5,784.63
EXPENSE			
EFT	NAME CHEAP	WEBPAGE HOSTING	38.88
EFT	RISK STRATEGIES	EQUIPMENT INSURANCE	108.50
EFT	AMERICAN CANCER	FOR W5WJH's WIFE	50.00
EFT	STORAGE HUT	03/01/2024-09/01/2024	305.00
		TOTAL	502.38
INCOME			
	DUES	2024 DUES	105.84
	5 @ 5.00 PER RENEWAL	REPEATER FUND	25.00
	GOOD AND WELFARE	GOOD AND WELFARE	16.00
		TOTAL	146.84
		OVERALL NET CHANGE	-355.44
BALANCE			
	1/29/2024		
		GENERAL FUND	1,510.28
		GOOD & WELFARE	815.13
		REPEATER FUND	842.35
		CHECKING	3,167.76
		SAVINGS	2,236.33
		PETTY CASH	25.00
		NET TOTAL	5,429.09

Membership

Let us know if you need any club business cards, which are handy for introducing people to the club or handing out during Ham conventions.

Want to join the club

2024 Club Dues are due

Print a membership form from our website k5sld.org and join us. Annual dues are \$25.00 Individual, \$35.00 Family, or \$15.00 Associate

Membership dues received after July 1st from applicants that were not members the previous year shall be one-half of the annual dues

2024 Club Officers

President:	Joe Wigner, K5MGY – joe.wigner@gmail.com
Vice President:	Price Wooldridge, K5NNL - pricewool@gmail.com
Secretary:	Andy Kapushoc, KB2VQA – kb2vqa@optonline.net – 817-652-0307
Treasurer:	Maurice Martin, KM5RF – km5rf1@charter.net – 817-266-9906
Editor:	Trey Seastrunk, AF5XS – trey01@swbell.net - 817-891-6372
Training Coordinator:	Phil Stage, N5PWW – n5pww@yahoo.com – 817-465-5624
Emergency Coordinator:	Clayton Starkweather, K5CWS – clayton.starkweather@gmail.com
Trustee:	Maurice Martin, KM5RF – km5rf@att.net – 817-266-9906
Agent of Record:	Phil Stage, N5PWW – n5pww@yahoo.com – 817-465-5624
Public Information:	Philip Scoggins, KD5WBW - KD5WBW@arrl.net – 817-939-7623
Webmaster:	David Lucas, KF5CFW – kf5cfw@gmail.com – 817-781-7256
Repeater Committee:	Maurice Martin, KM5RF (chair), Rob May, W5WS, Don Kovatch N5YAK, Gerry Dalton, W5MAY