



COMMUNICATOR

Volume X, February 2011

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

February Announcements

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Extra Class License Course Starting in March

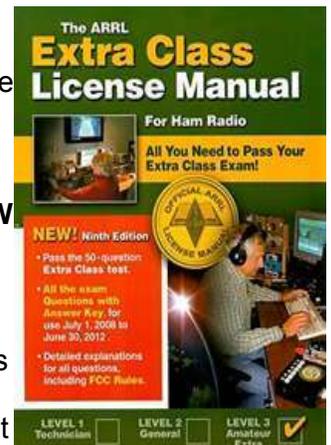
Beginning the second week in march, a training class for those wanting to test for their Extra Class license or simply brush up on their electronic and radio theory will be held at 501 W. Sanford in Arlington. The class will run about 8 weeks with the Extra Class exam given at the final class. Classes will be from 7 to 9 pm on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Please contact **Phil Stage N5PWW** for more details – n5pww@sbcglobal.net

Club Dues are Due

Yep, it's that time of year again. Arlington ARC club dues can be paid two ways. The club website k5sld.org now has a **PayPal** option, which is a very easy and convenient way to pay dues if you have a PayPal account. And of course dues can still be paid to Arlington ARC via check. Checks can be sent to the club P.O. Box or given to Chris Webster, club treasurer, at the meeting. Dues for the year are still \$25.

Call for Photos and Articles

As Editor I am happy to gather and even write much of the content of the AARC newsletter each month, but it is YOUR newsletter, so if you have a story or a ham project idea or even a really great photo of something related to ham radio, I would love to share it here. It could be something from amateur radio past or present: a bit of good news, a photo from last year's Field Day or a story about your grandpa's favorite rig that you inherited. This month I have shared a story from my beginnings in CW operating which comes full circle to 2010. If you have an amazing or moving radio tale, we'd love to hear it. Just get in touch with me - pipertoo@earthlink.net - Virginia NV5F



February Presentation

This month **Dennis McGrath N5ACK** will show us how to make a 2 meter j-pole antenna. This portable roll-up 2 meter antenna, which is great for taking on trips, will outperform the rubber duck antenna by quite a bit. It's simple to make, and costs almost nothing. You probably have all the parts to make it already.

Arlington ARC Events Calendar

Feb. 18, Fri, 6:30pm, Monthly Board Meeting at 501 W Sanford

Feb. 18, Fri, 7:30pm, Monthly Club Meeting at 501 W Sanford

Feb. 19 Sat, 10:00am, Amateur License test Session at 501 W Sanford

Feb. 19, Sat, 5:00pm, Dining Out – Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St., Arlington

Mar. 2, Wed, 12:30pm, Arlington Siren Test

Mar. 5, Sat, 8:30am, 1st Saturday breakfast – Main Street Cafe, 2023 South Cooper St., Arlington

Mar. 5, Sat, 10:00am, Amateur License Test Session at 501 W Sanford

Mar. 18, Fri, 7:30pm, Monthly Club Meeting at 501 W Sanford

Our website has an Events Calendar, so check it out for the latest information on upcoming events at www.k5sld.com

AARC Financial Report – January 2011

 Arlington ARC								
AARC January 2011 Financial Report								
	Actual Aug-10	Actual Sep-10	Actual Oct-10	Actual Nov-10	Actual Dec-10	Actual Jan-11		
Income								
Dues	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$615.00		
PayPal Dues	\$23.97	\$23.97	\$23.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$249.41		
Good & Welfare	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00		
AT&T overpayment refund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
CD interest	\$0.36	\$0.34	\$0.38	\$0.36	\$0.36	\$0.37		
	<u>\$24.33</u>	<u>\$99.31</u>	<u>\$24.35</u>	<u>\$12.86</u>	<u>\$0.36</u>	<u>\$894.78</u>		
Expenses								
Storage Hut	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
AT&T	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
SafeHaven donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Liability Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Web Hosting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Arlington Yacht Club	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00		
Chris Webster (club expenses)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Bank check order	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Printing supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$193.06		
1 year PO Box fees	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00		
Ham Radio Outlet (4 under door jumpers)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Accent Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$328.94</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$193.06</u>		
Variance	<u>\$24.33</u>	<u>\$99.31</u>	<u>-\$304.59</u>	<u>\$12.86</u>	<u>\$0.36</u>	<u>\$701.72</u>		
	Ending Bal Oct-09	Actual Aug-10	Actual Sep-10	Actual Oct-10	Actual Nov-10	Actual Dec-10	Actual Jan-11	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$1,350.53	\$23.97	\$98.97	-\$304.97	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$671.35	\$1,444.21
Repeater Fund	\$1,320.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,266.90
Good & Welfare	\$466.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$568.58
Chase Checking	\$3,138.14	\$23.97	\$98.97	-\$304.97	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$701.35	\$3,279.69
Chase CD	\$2,150.02	\$0.36	\$0.34	\$0.38	\$0.36	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$2,157.76
Total Chase Bank	\$5,288.16	\$24.33	\$99.31	-\$304.59	\$12.86	\$0.36	\$701.72	\$5,437.45
Petty Cash	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Total - All Balances	\$5,313.16	\$24.33	\$99.31	-\$304.59	\$12.86	\$0.36	\$701.72	\$5,462.45

Prepared by Chris Webster, K5LTX
Treasurer AARC since August 2009

Breaking the CW Ice... Twice

Virginia Smith NV5F

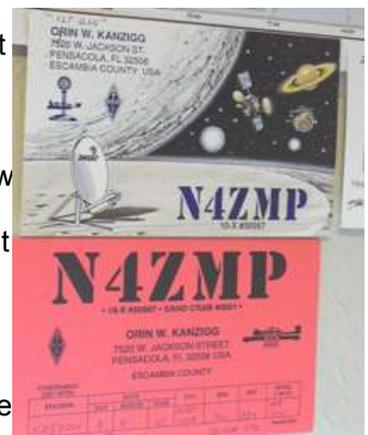
In the summer of 1998 I saw the movie *Contact* for the first time. Based on Carl Sagan's novel of the mid-1980s, the film featured Jodie Foster as Dr. Ellie Arroway, an astronomer bent on discovering intelligent life elsewhere in our Galaxy. The movie opens with a sequence where the viewer zooms out from earth, while hearing a retrospective of radio history in reverse, beginning with the popular tunes of the mid-90s, zipping through well-known shows, commercials, and famous news reports from the 80s, 70s, 60s... all the way back through early broadcasts by FDR, Hitler, and Walter Winchell, on into the 1920s, all the way back to faint Morse Code signals. Then... silence. The scene dissolves from the quiet of deep space to Dr. Arroway as a little girl, ardently calling CQ on 20 meters with the call sign W9GFO (actually held by Richard Harman of Seattle, WA). After a moment of frustration at no immediate results, Ellie receives a call from K4WLD in Pensacola, Florida. (This is the real-life call of Randy Wallace in Rockford, AL.)

The movie, which remains one of my favorites to this day, made such an impression on me because at that time I was studying for my first amateur radio license. On August 8, 1998, the day after graduating with my masters in mass communication at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, I passed the two test elements and the 5 WPM Morse Code to earn my Tech Plus. I was issued the call KD5EZN a few days later. I would not make my first QSO for another two weeks.

Over the summer I had bought a Ten-Tec Omni-D, vintage 1980, and had listened the whole summer on a piece of wire shoved into the antenna jack on the back. On the 26th of August I finally got up the nerve. With nary an Elmer in sight, I loaded up an MFJ portable vertical multiband antenna on 40 meters (I'm sure my SWR was terrible!). I was determined to make my first QSO via CW. I don't recall if I sent CQ or answered it, but my first contact was with N4ZMP on 7.115 MHz. I know I must have panicked as, for an instant, the previous months of copy practice seemed to escape me. But somehow I got through my first QSO. When I told N4ZMP that it was my inaugural run, he was wonderfully patient and I think he repeated every piece of information at least twice. He told me his name was Orin, and his QTH... Pensacola, Florida! A short Skip from my QTH in Long Beach, Mississippi. So now when I see the movie *Contact*, fond memories of a summer spent in preparation and anticipation come flooding back. That summer ended with a gratifying first QSO. Orin Promptly sent a QSL noting "1st QSO" in the upper left corner.

Now, fast forward a few years. Living in Fort Worth, Texas since 2005, I had been off the air for for over 8 years when one of my bagpipe students, Richard Brown WN5S, saw a Texas Towers catalog in my studio and inquired if I was a ham. I had recently renewed my license and had received the catalog in the mail. Richard invited me to the Arlington Amateur Radio Club, and by the late summer of 2009 I was back in business, thanks to an antenna raising orchestrated by Richard and two other club members: Rob May NV5E and Scott Clark AE5PC. I soon began attending the NORTEX QRP Club meeting, hosted by Joe Spencer KK5NA, with Richard and Rob. Joe, a lover of CW and great collector of keys, encouraged me to get back into CW, but I was so rusty! So I busted out my old MFJ straight key and began listening and practicing again.

I debated several times whether to get on the air and really put my returning skills to the test. And then one day in April 2010 I was lying back listening to slow code on 7.111 (still debating) and trying to pick out a call sign. Someone was sending CQ. I listened again. N... 4... Z... M... P! I jumped up without a thought in my head and answered. I had to! Orin came right back. Of course he didn't remember me, but I got to explain all about my first QSO with him in 1998. I'm sure it was no surprise to a guy who has made nearly 30,000 QSOs mostly on CW. But I don't believe in coincidences, and this was the first CW I had worked since 1999. And it was the same ham who had helped me break the ice this time around. This was also a defining moment, in which I determined to become the excellent CW op I had set out to be in 1998. Since my second QSO with N4ZMP I have acquired a much shorter vanity call - NV5F (notice a similarity to Rob's call?), joined the Straight Key Century Club, and started to spend more time with CW. It really is an amazing universe in itself and I would encourage any



(continued next page)

ham to explore it for its practical and historical significance, as well as the rewarding feeling it brings. There are several slow code and Elmer frequencies where folks are pleased to work at a slower pace and patience is the order of the day. Try 7.114 and the adjacent frequencies. The SKCC - www.skccgroup.com - has a CW Elmering program, and just about anyone on the slow code band is willing to help out. Some of them are seasoned ops - like Orin - who often choose to work at a laid back speed. I have already had a few nice chats, and I'm glad I can look forward to many a long, leisurely QSO with N4ZMP and others in the future.

January 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Andy Kapushoc, KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of the AARC was held on January 21st, 2011 at 6:42pm. Present were President, Jack W5JCK; Vice President, Dennis N5ACK; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Virginia NV5F; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. Absent was the Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT.

The .com and .net domain names were renewed. Chris K5LTX informed the Board that 9 people used PayPal to pay their dues.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

January 2011 Membership Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Andy Kapushoc, KB2VQA, Secretary

The regular meeting of the membership of the AARC was called to order at 7:30pm January 21st, 2011 by the President, Jack W5JCK. Other Board members present included Vice President, Dennis N5ACK; Secretary, Andy KB2VQA; Treasurer, Chris K5LTX; Editor, Virginia NV5F; Training Coordinator and Agent of Record, Phil N5PWW; and Trustee, Maurice KM5RF. Absent was the Emergency Coordinator, Bill AE5BT.

Jack W5JCK asked that the meeting attendees introduce themselves by name and call sign. He also reminded the Membership that dues are due.

The Newbie Net status was undetermined. It was being held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm using the 147.14 repeater.

Virginia NV5F printed and distributed the newsletter. If you would like to write an article, sell/buy radio equipment, or inform the Membership of upcoming events, then submit the item to Virginia.

Chris K5LTX reviewed the financial reports for November and December 2010. A motion was made and carried to accept for audit the financial reports as published in the January 2011 newsletter.

The minutes for the November meetings were submitted for publication in the January 2011 newsletter. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as published.

Phil N5PWW will continue to hold testing sessions on the first and third Saturdays of the month. He plans on holding an Extra Class training session starting in the second week of March. If you would like to assist in teaching the class, please contact Phil.

A break as taken at 8:02pm and the presentation started at 8:20pm.

Dave Walker W5DJO gave a presentation on the monthly siren testing in Arlington.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.

The sign-in sheet showed 35 people in attendance, 32 indicating AARC membership.

Volunteers Needed to Help Test the 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?

Volunteers, 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. The test is conducted between 12:30pm to 1:30pm on the AARC repeater, K5SLD, 147.140 MHz, pl 110.9.

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.

Please monitor our 147.140 repeater starting about 11:00am on the day of the test. The net will begin about 12:15pm on test day, and you may join us any time that you are able. Detailed maps in PDF and printed formats will be available upon request to assist you in locating siren locations. For more info contact Jack Swinden, W5JCK, AARC President.



2011 Club Officers

President: Jack Swinden W5JCK – jack@w5jck.com – 817.894.4858

Vice President: Dennis McGrath N5ACK – n5ack@arri.net – 972.352.6602

Secretary: Andy Kapushoc KB2VQA – kb2vqa@optonline.net – 817.652.0307

Treasurer: Chris Webster – Chris.Webster@hcahealthcare.com – 817.480.2918

Editor: Virginia Smith NV5F – pipertoo@earthlink.net – 601.467.5920

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

Jack Swinden W5JCK – jack@w5jck.com – 817.894.4858

Repeater Committee

Chairman Paul Baumgardner W5PSB

Maurice Martin KM5RF and Harold Reasoner K5SXK