



L.A.R.A. Newsletter July 2017

Lewisville Amateur Radio Association
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From the Prez

Happy Independence Day!!!

It's July already! We completed Field Day which was a blast; it was great for all. We made a lot of contacts, lots of visitors, and lots of fun. If you didn't come, then you really missed out. I would like to say thanks to this year's Field Day committee; you did a great job.

I'm excited to see some of the upcoming events. It's time to start thinking about JOTA in October and a Parking Lot Swap Meet the last Saturday in August. The last swap meet was a fun time with folks swapping things, hanging out, and telling stories. So even if you don't have items to swap, you might learn a thing or two from one of these stories being told.

I would like to, as I have in the past, challenge each one of you to invite a friend, family, co-worker and, most of all the youngsters. This hobby needs good clubs and stewards to pass it along; let's keep it going.

73' Len KC5MPX

July Business Meeting
July 15, 0800 at Lewisville
Central Fire Station, 188 N.
Valley Pkwy. Come on out;
let's fill the room.



**Boy Scouts
of America
Troop 123**

**All You Can Eat
Pancake Breakfast
for only \$10!**

Menu: pancakes, bacon, sausage,
crumbled eggs, fruit, juice, and coffee

Saturday, July 29
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

At Trietsch Memorial UMC –
Family Life Center
6101 Morriss Road, Flower Mound

A Boy Scout from Troop 123 will be at the meeting next Saturday to sell you some tickets. 50% of his sales goes toward his personal camp fund. Let's make this our Saturday breakfast meet-up for the 29th.

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Technical Director's Corner

By: Jim WB8YWA

In our September 2016 issue of our newsletter I describe how to build a mic switch along with an interface between your computer and ham radio. In this issue I will explain how to build the switch again but by using the complete computer switch box not just the switch itself.

In the previous issue I describe how to obtain a cheap inexpensive multipole switch to switch the 8 wires needed in most ham radio microphones. Not only is this switch great, but so is the metal enclosure they are already in, along with the connectors used by the data cables. The only thing needed is to make up your microphone cables using the computer connector on one end and the round or RJ-45 connector on the radio end.

Below are two pictures of computer data switches you can find for next to nothing at ham fest, yard sales or you may have laying around your home.



The most common switches come in two to four position and you need to select one that fits your ham station needs. I am sure there are even larger ones that cover more than four positions. They also come with different types of computer type connectors from 25 pin or 9 pin COM cables to RGB video type. It will make no difference other than you need to find these types of cables or connectors to make up your mic to radio cable. I would use pin one of the computer connector as pin one on the mic and so on to keep it simple. If you are mixing radio types you will need to swap the wires to match the microphone. Go to the web or your manual to find the pin out of the radio and your mic and adjust accordingly.

The common connector becomes the connector you hook your microphone to and the A-D connectors are hooked to your radios. You can fancy it up by painting the enclosure to match your radio colors and label the connectors to which radio is which. The switch boxes are made of metal and provide excellent RF shielding.

Here is a source of microphone cables with ends to match your radios.



https://packetradio.com/catalog/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=13

This is a nice easy project that will allow you to use your favorite boom mic or headset on all of your radios by a simple flip of the switch.

Operation Director's Corner

By: Mike W5EVT

2017 FIELD DAY

Once again Lewisville Amateur Radio Association held their annual ARRL Field Day on June 24 thru June 25 at Lewisville Central Fire Station EOC.

Set up began after breakfast and even with the rain we were ready for start time. Three stations were set up for operation along with a GOTA (Get On The Air) station with a coach to assist non hams make contacts and promote our hobby. All stations were in operation for the 24 hour period.

Thanks to our station captains and all who helped in making this a successful event. 172 QSO's were made at the 3 stations and 49 QSO's at the GOTA station with 14 operators. City Councilman Neil Ferguson made 15 contacts and Lee Norup K5WXR made 11, his first HF contacts. We might see him on the HF bands soon.

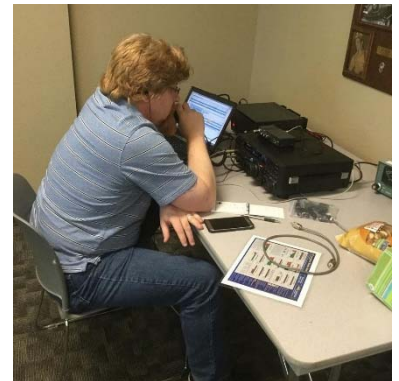
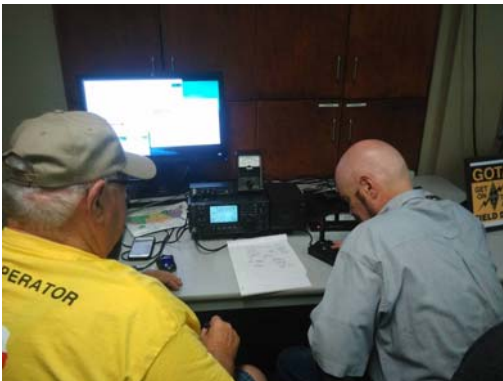
Eleven traffic messages were passed to ARRL Directors and Assistants. Thanks to Jim Horton WB8YWA for composing messages and Carolyn Womack, KC5OZT for passing the messages on Texas Traffic Net (7290 Traffic Net).

We had 18 club members in attendance along with 26 visitors throughout the event. Two Lewisville City Councilmen, Lewisville City Fire Chief, and Assistant, along with LPD officer and several LFD firefighters. CBS Channel 11 came out and did an interview and short clip that aired on two Sunday News programs.

Special thanks to our committee members and all who helped in planning and making this such a successful event.

Field Day score was 1680 Points.

Upcoming Events are LFD Open House and Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) in October. Details to come later.



Suggested SOP Revisions

Last month's Newsletter contained suggested revisions to both the By-Laws and SOPs. At the June business meeting changes to the By-Laws were approved as written but the membership asked for additional changes in the SOPs. Following is the SOP document with the revised wording as suggested. Discussion and call for approval will be held at the July 15 business meeting. Removals are ~~red with a line~~ drawn through and additions are in red font.

Lewisville Amateur Radio Association Standard Operating Procedures ~~April 5, 2015~~ revision date TBD

Preamble

This Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Lewisville Amateur Radio Club, Inc, will govern the Lewisville Amateur Radio Association (LARA).

Membership Application

Applications for membership may be submitted in writing at any regular meeting or using the online process ~~from~~ on the LARA web site.

Life Membership

From time to time certain members ~~have been~~ may be elected as Life Members of the LARA. These members are selected by other members for their outstanding service and contributions to the club over the years. These members are nominated by a member or members by submitting a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will review each case and if a majority of the Executive Committee agrees with the recommendation the President will present the recommendation to the membership. A member will be made a Life Member of the club with approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting. These new Life members will be considered Full members with full privileges, but will be exempt from paying any dues or assessments for their lifetime.

Complimentary Membership

Persons who successfully complete a club-sponsored license class for their initial FCC license will receive one (1) full year of complimentary membership as a ~~Full~~ Non-voting Member upon receipt of their amateur radio license and completion of a membership application.

Election Procedures

Elections for officers shall be held annually through mail ballot or electronic ballot by the membership at the April meeting of the association.

A nominating committee chair shall be determined by volunteer or appointment by the President no later than the February meeting. No sitting officer or candidate for office may serve on the nominating committee.

The association's officers shall determine the method for polling the membership (~~show of hands, mail ballot, or electronic ballot~~).

Surplus Disposal Procedure

The current LARA President will appoint a LARA member as the Surplus Coordinator. The Surplus Coordinator will be responsible for the disposition of all surplus equipment. Such person must be ~~current in LARA dues~~ a member in good standing. Shortly after LARA receives a donation of equipment or of other items of value, the Surplus Coordinator will inventory all donated equipment, generate and maintain a list of the equipment and its condition, and provide that list to the Executive Committee and to the LARA Treasurer.

Usage of all equipment donated to the LARA will be determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will advise the Surplus Coordinator which equipment is to be kept for LARA approved uses and which is to be sold.

The Surplus coordinator will then determine the estimated value of each piece of equipment using good practices and reasonable judgment, and then generate a surplus inventory report of equipment to be sold.

The surplus inventory report will be published on the club web site, social media and in the newsletter. Upon publication in the LARA newsletter, LARA membership will be allowed to purchase the equipment at the estimated value less 10% on a first-come, first-served basis by advising the Surplus Coordinator of that LARA member's interest in acquiring the equipment, making payment for the equipment within 48 hours, and then picking up the equipment within a reasonable time thereafter.

The Surplus Coordinator will update and provide the surplus inventory report to the Executive Committee and to the LARA Treasurer monthly until all surplus equipment is sold or disposed of. The Surplus Coordinator will transfer all records of requests for each item, its estimated value, the amount received when sold, and if purchased by a LARA member, the name of the member, to the LARA Treasurer. The report will also show the total amount received and transferred into the LARA general fund. All reports will be available to LARA members for inspection. All funds received from sales of equipment will be provided to the LARA Treasurer within 48 hours.

If equipment does not sell as set forth above, such LARA equipment will be offered for sale to the general public, or non-member Hams locally, or via the Internet, or to the highest bidder.

Any remaining equipment not disposed of in the manner identified in the previous paragraphs will be recycled, **placed into LARA inventory**, or otherwise properly disposed of.

SOP Revisions

Modifications to the SOP may be requested by any member of the Association by presenting the request to any **officer member of the Executive Committee**.

The Standard Operating Procedures may be modified by a quorum vote of the Association's members at any regularly scheduled meeting with approved revisions taking effect immediately. A record of all revisions to the SOP and the results of the vote on such **modifications revisions** shall be maintained in the minutes of that meeting.

Once approved the revised SOP will be published to the LARA web site.

Meetings

Regular meetings of the Association shall take place **~~TBD~~ on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM. Meetings will normally be held at the Lewisville Central Fire Station, 188 N. Valley Pkwy, Lewisville, TX. Meeting dates and locations may be changed at the discretion of the presiding officer. Notification to the membership of date, time, and/or location changes will be made in the newsletter, email, and/or social media.**

Meetings may be held via telephone conference, videoconference, e-mail or other means as directed by the Executive Committee.

~~Officers~~ Executive Committee meetings shall take place ~~TBD~~ on a monthly basis following the monthly membership meeting. Time and location will be announced to the committee by the presiding officer.

Notices

Meeting notices shall be posted in the newsletter and on the Association's **web site** home page **at ~~TBD~~**. Meeting reminders and general notices to the membership may also be posted to social media sites.

L.A.R.A. Officers

Position	Name	Email
President	Len Shipp	kc5mpx@gmail.com
Vice President	Jim Lavin	jlavin@jimlavin.net
Secretary	Tim Monk	timmonk@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ron Ford	rfavcon@verizon.net
Technical	Jim Horton	wb8ywa@arri.net
Director		
Operations	Mike Reitz	w5evt@sbcglobal.net
Director		

How far can you talk?

By: Chris WA5TT

That's the common question I get from family and neighbors when they stare at the antenna on top of the house. AD5VA and I have a small house, so the tripod, mast, and long VHF/UHF antenna, tower over the house like a steeple on a church.

"It depends" is my usual answer. Most questioning stops at that point, only the truly curious continue their interrogation.

"It depends" is a good answer since there are several factors that affect a radio system performance. Location, antenna height, antenna type, feedline, radio, conditions, and operator all go into making a contact or hearing a station. Since the AD5VA/WA5TT station is currently only VHF/UHF at this time due to antennas, we will only look at the factors that affect the performance on those bands

Location and antenna height are the key to VHF/UHF performance since at these frequencies radio communication is LOS, (Line-of-Sight).

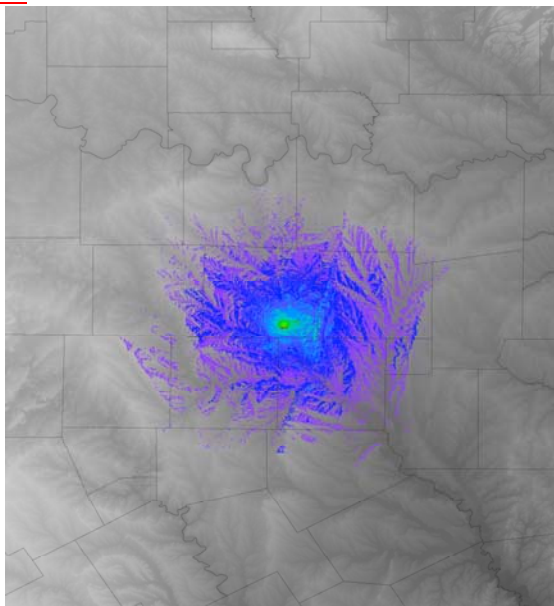
Using various LOS calculators, the radio horizon at the AD5VA/WA5TT station is somewhere between 8 to 10 miles. We are in a decent location for the area, on top of the hill that is Old Town Lewisville, 30' or more above the flood plain that the city was moved from back in the day.

The antenna is at the top of the 10' mast snug in a Rohn tripod atop the house, so it's about 35' above the ground. The feed line is decent, but not totally optimal, but the antenna makes up for that with additional gain.

Adding in the antenna height and type along with the location information, frequency and a default receiver at the other end of the contact at 6 ft., we can visualize the ideal system performance on a map.

You can find VHF/UHF LOS calculators on line or you can do a more sophisticated site analysis with a tool like Splat!

Splat - <http://www.qsl.net/kd2bd/splat.html>



Splat!: WA5TT 146MHz Model Performance

Ideally we should be able to talk to mobile unit in a broad area about 15 miles from the house. Most likely we will probably be using repeaters, which are usually mounted at a hundred or more feet above the ground. This means we can extend our reach across most of North Texas even without resorting to linked repeaters.

In reality, both receiving and transmission tests have validated the models and verified station performance. Comparison tests verses HT antennas resulted in lopsided wins for the home station. In addition to regional amateur radio repeaters and simplex contacts, NOAA weather and the air traffic chatter around DFW airport provided entertainment, but the strangest QSOs are heard on the 2m FM calling frequency.

So how far can I talk? When atmospheric conditions are ripe for tropo ducting, hams in Houston are as close as next door. But that doesn't happen every day, so the answer still is, "It depends."

NOAA Weather Radio - <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

DFW frequencies - <https://www.airnav.com/airport/KDFW>

2M FM Simplex – 146.52 (Occasional, delightful, weirdness...)

Find that strange repeater - <http://txvhffm.org/repeaters/repeaters.php>

Various Tidbits

Corporate Donors – Many corporations make donations to non-profit organizations, such as LARA, that their employees/customers support. Does your company make contributions of this nature? Check it out; maybe there is an opportunity for you and your employer to further support LARA. Here are a few known companies that support non-profit organizations -- Microsoft Matching Funds, Yahoo, Verizon, Network for Good, HP Your Cause, Amazon Smile, Dell, and AT&T. Contact Ron Ford, Treasurer if your employer is willing to make a donation to LARA.

Mark Saturday morning August 26 on your calendar for the next LARA Parking Lot Swap Meet. Clean out your shack, garage sewing room, etc. and bring out all that good stuff that you no longer need. Never know when you might have that special something that someone else is looking for. Watch next month's Newsletter for the location.

BRICKYARD 400 SPECIAL EVENT – July 27 – 24, 0400Z -0400Z W9IMS – 18.140, 14.245, 7.245, 3.840. Certificate and QSL available from Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club.

2017 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE – July 19 – 27, 0000Z – 2300Z K2BSA – 18.140, 14.290, 7.190. Don't forget to also listen up for **K5K from the Philmont Scout Ranch**. They will be on the air attempting contact with K2BSA and calling CQ.

EAA AIRVENTURE 2017 – July 26 – 30, 1400Z – 2200Z W9ZL – 50.150, 14.270, 7.250. Certificate available from W9ZL EAA Special Event.

Goodbye Josh Roberts – Josh has been the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Lewisville for the past several years. He recently accepted a similar position at the state level and has departed Lewisville. Those of us who dealt with Josh during his tenure here will certainly miss him; he was very supportive of LARA's activities. We wish him well in his new position.

Upcoming Events

Go to the L.A.R.A. web site – [click here](#)

Scroll down on the home page to reach the Upcoming Events Calendar

June Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Tim, WZ5TM

The June meeting minutes were not available at press time.

Amateur Radio Week Proclamation

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio operators are celebrating over a century of transmitting over the airwaves and continues to provide a bridge between peoples, societies and countries by creating friendships and the sharing of ideas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lewisville recognizes the members of the Lewisville Amateur Radio Association and the services they provide to Emergency Response organizations without compensation; and

WHEREAS, these same individuals have further demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing free radio communications for local parades, concerts, and other entertainment events; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lewisville recognizes and appreciates the diligence of these "hams" who also serve as weather spotters in the Skywarn program of the National Weather Service; and

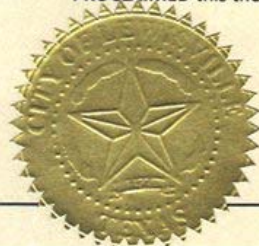
WHEREAS, the Amateur Radio Field Day exercise will take place on June 24-25, 2017 and is a 24 hour exercise and demonstration of the Radio Amateurs' skills and readiness to provide self-supporting communications without further infrastructure; now

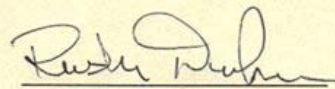
THEREFORE, I Rudy Durham, Mayor of the City of Lewisville, along with the members of the City Council, do hereby officially recognize and designate June 19-25, 2017, as

"Amateur Radio Week"

in the City of Lewisville, Texas.

PROCLAIMED this the 19th day of June, 2017.




Rudy Durham, Mayor
City of Lewisville

June Treasurer's Report

By: Ron KF5OMH

LARA Treasurer's Report June 2017

Checking Account

Beginning Balance		\$3,663.68
Income		
Dues		\$175.00
Donations		\$30.00
Raffle Tickets		\$300.00
Shirts		\$50.00
Total Income		\$555.00
Expenses		
Fees		\$343.09
Repeater		\$0.00
Miscellaneous		\$1,359.95
Total Expenses		\$1,703.04
Ending Balance		\$2,515.64

Savings Account

Beginning Balance		\$31.66
Deposits		\$0.00
Withdrawals		\$0.00
Ending Balance		\$31.66

CLUB ASSETS

For Sale		\$275.00
Stock (Not for Sale)		\$835.98
Loaner Equipment		\$2,040.00
Repeater Equipment		\$ 300.00
		\$3,450.98

LARA NET VALUE \$5,998.28

Area Repeaters

Courtesy: DCARA *EXCITER* Newsletter

Freq.	Shift	PL	Call	Name
145.1700	-.600	110.9	W5FKN	DCARA-Denton County EOC
145.2100	-.600	110.9	N5MJQ	Metrocrest ARA-Carrollton
145.4000	-.600	110.9	NETARC	Grapevine
145.4900	-.600	85.4	WD5U	Rosston Tower
146.9200	-.600	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA - Denton
147.300	+.600	114.8	N5ERS	Flower Mound
147.3800	+.600	110.9	K5LRK	LAARK - The Colony
224.000	-1.6	110.9	K5LRK	LAARK - The Colony
224.080	-1.6	110.9	W5LVC	LARA
224.920	-1.6	110.9	AF5RS	AF5RS
441.3250	+5.0	88.5	W5NGU	Portable DCARA repeater
442.7500	+5.0	110.9	KA5R	Trophy Club
444.5125	+5.0	123	KE5UT	Celina
442.1750	+5.0	110.9	NETARC	Southlake
442.6500	+5.0	110.9	N5MJQ	Metrocrest ARA-Carrollton
443.3000	+5.0	110.9	K5LRK	LAARK-C4FM only
443.5250	+5.0	118.8	WA5LIE	DCARA - Denton
443.7375	+5.0	141.3	N6LXX	Rosston Tower
443.8750	+5.0	110.9	NETARC	DFW Airport
444.0500	+5.0	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA-Denton County EOC
444.2250	+5.0	110.9	K5CFD	Coppell
444.7000	+5.0	110.9	NETARC	Southlake
444.8500	+5.0	110.9	N5ERS	Flower Mound
927.025	-25.0	D532	N5ERS	Flower Mound
927.4125	-25.0	432	N5LS	Denton
927.6125	-25.0	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA-Denton County EOC
927.1375	-25.0	131.8	W5FKN	Decatur
1253.6000	none	none	W5NGU-G	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "G"
1293.4000	-20.0	none	W5NGU-A	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "A"
442.9250	+5.0	none	W5NGU-B	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "B"
147.4500	-1.0	none	W5NGU-C	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "C"
1259.2000	none	none	KE5YAP-G	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "G"
1293.2000	-20.0	none	KE5YAP-A	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "A"
440.7125	+5.0	none	KE5YAP-B	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "B"
147.4900	-1.0	none	KE5YAP-C	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "C"
DIGITAL	====	====	=====	=====
144.9100	none	none	W5NGU-4	DCARA Digipeater-Denton
147.970	none	none	K5YX-10	WinLink Gateway
144.990	none	none	KC5GOI	DCARA Digipeater-Rosston
144.990	none	none	KD5EOC-10	DCARA WL Gateway