



# L.A.R.A. Newsletter September 2016

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

## September Business Meeting

The September business meeting on Saturday, September 17 will be a special event. In addition to the normal meeting format we will conduct a silent auction of equipment that was donated to the club from the estate of silent key John Hawkins, K5NW.

The officers and Surplus Equipment Coordinator have determined that there are numerous items from this estate that are surplus to the club's needs and will therefore be offered to the membership via this auction.

To view the list of equipment for sale [click here](#).

operators and amateur radio operators throughout the world.

One of the planning goals each year is to have operators in each of the 254 counties in Texas. This is the best - and in fact it may be the only - opportunity to make contact with operators in some Texas counties.

To learn more, check out this web site – [click here](#).

**L.A.R.A On-Line**  
Web site – [click here](#)  
  
By-Laws -- [By-Laws](#)  
  
SOP -- [SOP](#)

## Texas QSO Party

The Texas QSO party, sponsored by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society, a full-service ARRL recognized club in Northwest Houston, Texas, is scheduled on the last full weekend in September. They do this each year to encourage contacts between Texas amateur radio

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**L.A.R.A. Newsletter**

Is published each month for the purpose of informing L.A.R.A. members of current events and issues of interest to the membership. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to *L.A.R.A. Newsletter* and to the original source.

## Silent Key

By: Jim Horton, WB8YWA



John E. Hawkins III May 6, 1943-March 16, 2015

A little over a month ago our club received an awesome donation from the estate of John E. Hawkins III, K5NW.

I would like to make our club aware of who this ham radio operator was and introduce you to what he enjoyed in our great hobby and give thanks to his wonderful wife, Betty Hawkins.

John lived next to Edmonds Street here in Lewisville. His first call was K5VTA and had that call well before 1962. Then by at least 1977 he became an Extra Class Licensee and obtained the call of K5NW.

His station consisted of 105 foot tower where it held a two element 40 meter Yagi beam at the 105 foot level. At the 90 foot level he had a PRO-37 Triband Yagi for 10/15/20 meters. Wire antennas for 160 and 80 meter bands were at the 90 foot also. At 40 feet and 60 feet he had two 4 element Yagi's for 10 meter band. His main HF radio was a Kenwood TS-930 and a legal limit Alpha 76PA amplifier.

John's amateur activity was chasing DX either on CW or SSB. He obtained SSB DXCC (DX Century Club) on April 6, 1962 and had a total of 335 confirmed countries (QLS cards) upon his death. On November 14, 1977 John obtained CW DXCC and had a total of 325 confirmed countries (QLS cards). On December 23, 1991 John obtained DXCC 40 Meters Only and had a total of 215 confirmed countries. John held 5-Band DXCC, DXCC Honor Roll and the CW DXCC Honor Roll.

He was an Electrical Engineer and worked for Texas Instruments and Raytheon. He

was an Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam era and attended the Baptist Church. John married Betty Elaine Dale on April 28, 1972 in Denton, Texas. His father, John E. Hawkins Jr. was a World War II Veteran and a self-employed television and radio repairman.

Many times I drove by his tower and wondered who the ham was that lived there and now wished I would have taken a few minutes to stop by John's QTH and introduced myself. By working on his equipment, going through his awards and QSL cards I feel we would have hit it off.

## Upcoming Events

Jim Lavin, K5VZ, our Vice President, and esteemed web master has developed an Upcoming Events calendar on the club web site. In favor of not duplicating information or possibly missing events we will publish the web site link in the Newsletter each month as a reminder to look at the web site calendar.

L.A.R.A. web site – [click here](#)  
Scroll down on the home page to reach the Upcoming Events calendar.

## JOTA Update

By: Ron Ford, KF50MH

The Boy Scout Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) event planning is moving forward. As of this writing, the following steps have been taken –

- Invitations mailed to 20 scout troops
- 15 Cub Scouts registered to attend
- 2 operators (CW and SSB) signed up
- Pavilion at L.L. Woods park donated by City of Lewisville
- Mobile communications unit (Communications 160) donated for the day by Lewisville Fire Department
- 1 food donation

It has been called to my attention that the original sign-up form did not permit multiple selections. That error has been corrected and if you would like to submit another form it will be appreciated. My apology for the "goof up".

[Click here](#) for the sign-up form.

## Training

### New Technician Class

Beginning Monday, September 19 at 1900 our second Technician class will be held at the Central Fire station Training Room.

Bob, K5DCZ, and Tim, WZ5TM, will be team teaching this class. Plans are for each session to last approximately two (2) hours and will run for eight sessions. The test session will be held November 12 at 1100.

Now is the time to start talking this up among friends, family and acquaintances who are currently not licensed.

[Click here](#) for the registration form.

### Skywarn Training

Storm spotter classes are conducted by the National Weather Service and are required biennially.

An [online course](#) is also available if you missed the local class.

FEMA - [IS-100.b Introduction to ICS](#)

FEMA - [IS-700.a National Incident Management System \(NIMS\), An Introduction](#)

West Gulf Division - [ARES Standardized Training Plan](#) Task Book

# August Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Allysa Shipp, KG5DAS

LARA Meeting Minutes 8/20/16

President Len Shipp KC5MPX, called the meeting to order at 8:06

Officers in Attendance:

President: Len Shipp KC5MPX

Vice President: Jim Lavin K5VZ

Secretary: Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS

Treasurer: Sharon Howard KE5JUI

Attendance:

Members:

Ron Ford KF5OMH

Jim Horton WB8YWA

Erick Guzowsky KOOM

Joe Nagel KG5MFG

Bob Burkett K5DCZ

Steve Kline W5JK

Dan Howard KE5CIR

Tom Monk WZ5TM

Kent Moore KG5MFI

Clark Highsmith K5LGX

Brian Ulmer KC5MPY

Guests:

Prit Patel KE5KIT

Matt Feryan KI6ERG

New Members Joined:

Marty Wells KM5OI

Meeting Minutes from Last Meeting: Past meeting minutes were approved as posted on the website.

Motioned by: Brian Ulmer KC5MPY

Seconded by: Ron Ford KF5OMH

Approved by the Members

Treasurer's Report was given by Sharon Howard KE5JUI: As of July 31st: Beginning \$988.21 Deposited 378.97 Ending \$1367.18

Motioned by: Jim Horton WB8YWA

Seconded by: Jim Lavin K5VZ

Approved by the Members

Technical Report as given by Len Shipp KC5MPX: 1.7 still working great. Going to try and get repeater tuned and ready to go. Will not be going on top of MCL.

Motioned by: Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS

Seconded by: Clark Highsmith K5LGX

Approved by the Members

Old Business:

Extra Testing Session

Junk Box Pass-Off - Lee Norup W5XR Ron Ford KF5OMH

Event T-Shirts

JOTA

Motion to Rent the Pavilion: Jim Lavin K5VZ

Second: Joe Nagel KG5MFG

Upcoming Events:

Outdoor Activity?

September 19 Tech Class

Newsletter

Our Seva October 22, 2016

Presentation on: Our Seva by Prit Patel KE5KIT and Matt Feryan KI6ERG

October 22, 2016

Tanglewood Neighborhood

Motion to Close Meeting Made by: Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS

Seconded by: Dan Howard KE5CIR

All Members Approved

Meeting Closed at: 8:59

## L.A.R.A. Officers

Position	Name	Email
President	Len Shipp	kc5mpx@gmail.com
Vice President	Jim Lavin	jlavin@jimlavin.net
Secretary	Allysa Shipp	allyssashipp@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sharon Howard	ke5jui@arrl.net
Technical Officer	Erick Guzowsky	zaphod1@swbell.net

## Book Review: Basic Antennas

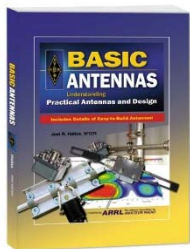
By: Clark Highsmith, K5LGX

Like many hams, you have probably noticed that the ARRL offers a wide range of books to further education and enjoyment of the hobby. While these books are generally well-written and informative, they are rarely inexpensive. The discriminating buyer will want to be sure a certain book will meet expectations before purchasing.

After passing my technician exam I had a desire to learn more about antennas. Looking on the ARRL website I saw a variety of books about antennas. The *ARRL Antenna Handbook*, currently in its 23rd edition, is the obvious gold standard. However, at nearly 1,000 pages and \$50, I inferred that it was probably more than I could handle so early in my amateur radio odyssey.

### The Book

I chose *Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design*. At \$30 and just 216 pages, I hoped that it would be a good stepping stone in learning about antennas.



The book is divided into 26 chapters, averaging 6-9 pages each. The first chapter offers an introduction to basic concepts about antennas before quickly moving on to different types of antennas. The book attempts to make a comprehensive survey of the usual suspects including dipoles, vertical monopoles, surface reflectors, yagis, log periodic, loop antennas, and antennas for microwave applications. The last two chapters cover vehicle antennas and antenna measurements. Two appendixes consider antenna modeling and decibel calculations.

### The Pros and Cons

I think this book delivers on its promise of explaining the essential facts of antenna theory and design. The short chapters and abundant black and white diagrams and photos add greatly to comprehension. The writer seems to assume that readers will not be completely unprepared for the topic but writes in a way that attempts to simplify explanations without being condescending or overly wordy.

If anything, the writing style is so concise that I often found myself with unanswered questions. Parts lists in the chapters on practical antennas would also improve the book. While the diagrams clearly showed the relationships of parts to one another, details were lacking. How long should the insulator be? What material is the gamma rod made of? What size of screws would be best for holding the elements together? Old hams might scoff at these

questions, but they are important to technology-challenged hams such as myself.

### The Verdict

Overall, I think the book delivers as advertised. It might be too much for a new Technician and on the light side for an old timer, but I recommend it for anyone with a general or extra license that wishes to begin a deeper study of antennas. On a scale of 1 to 10 kerchunks, I give it a 7.

## OUR SEVA MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

At the August business meeting Prit Patel KE5KIT and Matt Feryan K16ERG presented their upcoming Our Seva event.

Our Seva has become an affiliate organization of the national Make A Difference Day to host a one day event helping the neighbors of the Tanglewood neighborhood in Lewisville. About 200 volunteers will come together to help six different homeowners in the neighborhood with exterior home repairs, curb appeal and other needed homeowner duties. Volunteers will be mowing, painting, trimming trees, scraping paint, cleaning, gardening, and working to improve the homes in general. This will be the sixth year that Our Seva has worked to reach out to individuals in a neighborhood and help improve their daily lives through this day of giving.

*“Our Seva is proud to host this annual event for the sixth year. The mission of Our Seva is to help individuals in need with clothing, shelter, and food. Our goal is to reach out to the community and work hand in hand with the neighbors of this neighborhood as well as community partners to help individuals in need of repairing their homes.”* said Priti Patel, Founder, and President of Our Seva Foundation.

**ABOUT OUR SEVA:** After the loss of Ms. Patel’s family in 2009, she started this organization in memory of her parents and her brother. Our Seva honors their memory through the work that is done with the goal to make a positive impact in the community. This annual service project takes place every October and homes are rehabbed in a community for seniors, veterans and those in need. About 200 volunteers come together with one goal in mind-to provide an opportunity to serve the community and value the importance of community service and helping our neighbors in need.

**ABOUT MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY:** Make A Difference Day is over 20 years strong and is the nation’s largest day of community service. It is a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors and coming together as one unified group with a common mission to improve the lives of others.

(Continued on next page)



We invite you and your family, friends and colleagues to register for our 6th annual Our Seva Make A Difference Day service project. We will again be rehabbing the exterior of homes this year for those in need - veterans, seniors and those with functional needs. There will be lots of painting, tree trimming, yard work, and general cleanup going on.

PROJECT DATE: Saturday, October 22

PROJECT LOCATION: Lewisville, Texas

PROJECT SCHEDULE: 7:00am-2:00pm (breakfast, snacks and lunch provided)

REGISTRATION: [Click here to register](#)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Saturday, September 18**

Don't forget the project is kid friendly! Our goal is to serve and improve the quality of life for those in need and to give children the opportunity to serve with us. We appreciate your time and service as we all work towards making a positive impact in our north Texas community. We look forward to seeing everyone on Oct 22 and having a great time serving and working together to make a positive difference!



Throughout 2016, Amateur Radio will be helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams from across the country will activate NPS units, promote the National Park Service, and showcase Amateur Radio to the public.

To learn more about the NPOTA activity [click here](#).

## Event T-Shirts

Let everyone know you're a member of the Lewisville Amateur Radio Association. Great for when you're working events and representing L.A.R.A.



These t-shirts are printed in 4-colors on a high visibility yellow cotton t-shirt and features the L.A.R.A. logo on the front and back with the words Radio Operator across the back shoulders.

T-shirts are ordered in minimum batches of 1 dozen and you will be notified when they are ready for pick up at the next monthly meeting.

Shirts are \$25.00 each and can be ordered [here](#).

# 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	-0.6	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		LAARK - The Colony
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"
<b>DIGITAL</b>	====	====	=====	=====
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