

LARA Newsletter



Volume 3 Issue 2 February 13th, 2018
Rev.1 - February 13th, 2018



Breakfast & Club Members Meetings - February, 2018

Breakfast

3 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.
10 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.

Business

17 - Saturday @ 8AM Site B.

Breakfast

24 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.

Key:

Site A. - Main St. Cafe, 321 E. Main St., Lewisville, TX

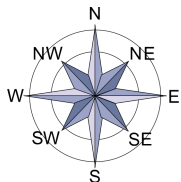
Site B. - Lewisville Central Fire Station Training Room
188 N. Valley Parkway

Association Contact Information:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 292282
Lewisville, TX. 75029
Email Address:
W5LVC.Club@gmail.com

Check us out:

Facebook: facebook.com/w5lvc/
Twitter@W5LVCCLUB



Jim Lavin
Vice President

2018 is looking to be an exciting year for the Lewisville Amateur Radio Association.

Last month we participated in Winter Field Day and several of us spent the weekend, setting up or equipment at Connor Pavilion and getting on the air making contacts across the U.S. I personally found out what was needed to mount my vertical to my BBQ trailer so it would withstand the wind and found out that I can have a rather toasty mobile ham shack should ever I need it.

We have the Maker's Faire coming up on the 26th of this February, along with Skywarn Training also on the 26th of February. Both are great opportunities to meet other folks in the Amateur Radio community and learn some really great things.

In March we will be having a Technician Class on the 10th and 11th with a testing session in the afternoon after class concludes. This is a great chance for your friends that have shown interest in Amateur Radio to get their ticket.

In March we also have elections coming up and now is the time for those of you that want to help lead the club to step forward and nominate yourself for a leadership position.

One last thing, this club is nothing without the participation of its members and one way you can participate is by providing ideas for new activities to the leadership team. Every one of us has great ideas that can help to make the club better and a great learning experience, we just need you to bring them up at club meetings. If you have a suggestion, please reach out to the club leadership via the hamclubonline.com web site so we can include it in the new business portion of our meetings.

Till Next Month 73s,

Jim Lavin / K5VZ

February 2018

Volume 3 Issue 2, Rev.1 February 13th, 2018

Website - W5LVC.org



Ron Bath
 Editor
Editor's Column

The good news is that this month's edition is 1,014 pages shorter than the novel "Gone With the Wind". I believe a little humor and sympathy is in order since my January newsletter was thought by some to be a just a tad to long.

I am pleased to announce a few new features. First of all, our newsletter now has a name; "73'zzz", which is a stylized version of our customary closing comment. 73's means; "best regards".



Mike Reitz
 Operation's Director
 Operation's Views

On January 27 & 28th Lewisville Amateur Radio Association once again participated in Winter Field Day.

We had three HF stations along with arden set up for operation. Weather was good and all that attended had a great time.

On Saturday February 24th. L.A.R.A. will be participating in Denton County Maker Faire.

Next Swap Meet will be in April. Gather all your stuff and be ready for another tail gate gathering. Date and time will be announced later this month.

73
 Mike W5EVT
 Director Operations



Tim Monk
 Secretary
 Secretary's Notes

The club meeting minutes for the January meeting held on the 20th. have been faithfully recorded, but were not available for publication in time to include in this edition. They will be published and posted on our clubs website W5lvc.org. very soon.

Ron Bath for Tim Monk



Ron Ford, KF5OMH
Treasurer's Corner

Treasurer's Corner

By: Ron KF5OMH

Thanks for the opportunity to share information about the Treasurer position. Not only does the Treasurer keep track of the dollars and cents that come and go from the club's accounts but, has several other responsibilities to the organization. One of the newest responsibilities is maintenance of the HamClubOnline club management system so, this month I'll cover a couple of questions that have come up since we started using the system.

First, I must apologize for an incorrect statement made at the January meeting as follows.

Q: What is the cost to LARA for using this system?

A: Currently there is no cost to the club for using the system as we are a beta test club. At the meeting I stated that a future cost could be \$50.00 per member. *That was incorrect; the future cost may be \$50.00 per year for the club or \$1.00 per member per year.* At this point the owner of the system has not made a decision as to the usage fee.

Q: Why do I get so many emails from the system?

A: There are some system generated messages such as your account status that are automatically sent. Then there are reminder messages that are controlled by the individual scheduling items on the club calendar. You can control the messages you receive by clicking on the [Manage Your Club Profile](#) option then click on the [Update](#) button adjacent to your email address. On the next screen, click the [here](#) selection to change your email status. There are three possible selections as follows:

1. All e-mails okay from HamClubOnline and my clubs that I am a member. (default)
2. No e-mails from my clubs. OK from HamClubOnline for account updates.
3. No e-mails from HamClubOnline or my clubs from which I am a member.

By selecting anything other than the default (item 1) you run the risk of not receiving important communications from the club. As of this writing I have removed the reminder from the Saturday Breakfast events which will eliminate one weekly reminder from your inbox.

Q: Why does the club calendar not look like a calendar; I find it hard to follow?

This is on the list of enhancements to the system. In the current view the calendar can be sorted by any of the fields shown at the top of the list; just click on the header item and the calendar will re-sort. In the meantime if you really prefer the classic calendar view you can use the [Club Calendar](#) selection on the club website, W5LVC.org.

Until the next time, 73 and hope to hear you on the air.

LARA Treasurer's Report - January 2018

Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$2,597.96

Income

Dues \$400.00

Donations \$0.00

ARRL \$0.00

Stickers \$0.00

Shirts \$25.00

Total Income \$425.00

Expenses

Fees \$10.60

Repeater \$0.00

Miscellaneous \$102.39

Total Expenses \$112.99

Ending Balance \$2,909.97

Savings Account

Beginning Balance \$31.66

Deposits \$0.00

Withdrawals \$0.00

Ending Balance \$31.66

CLUB ASSETS

For Sale \$250.00

Stock (Not for Sale) \$1,374.60

Loaner Equipment \$1,780.00

\$3,404.60

LARA NET VALUE \$6,346.23



Jim Horton
Technical Director
Jim's Technical GEMS

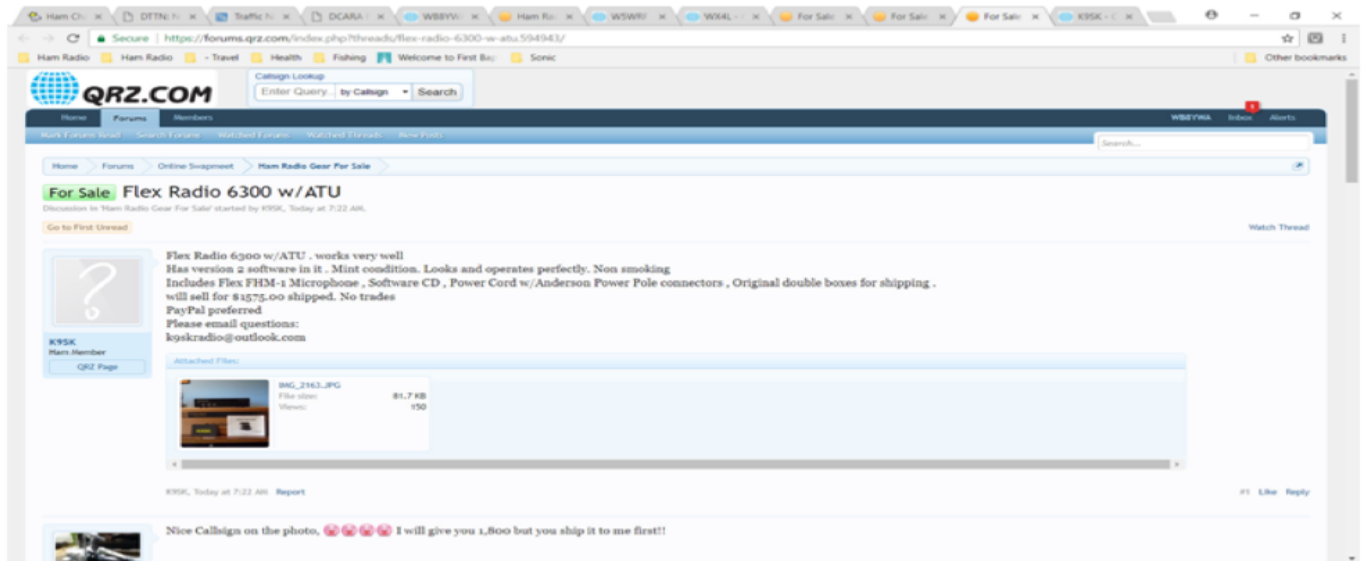
Information and Tips on not being rip off when using QRZ WEB site or others.

By Jim Horton WB8YWA

Sad to say but we must be aware when dealing on the Internet ham web sites for buying used equipment from what we think are fellow ham's. I will just speak of the site I use a lot, but these same words can be used on eBay or any other used ham radio shopping site.

I have always since becoming a ham (1975) enjoy looking at used gear for sale. When I started into this hobby I could not afford new gear, so off to ham feast looking to buy what I could. Remember this was long before the introduction of the internet. From the follow ham I would be told it work perfect and I would be 100% happy with my used purchase, times I was, but more times I found something not working that the previous owner should have told me. Then there was the time I purchase an early set of Drake Twins which didn't work as owner said, fix them and sold them for a little profit to have the check bounce at same bank that I bank at. Lost was on me even though I called to check funds before taken check. Short story I went to man's house when only his kids where there and pickup up my Drake's and left him his check. I say all this to let you know that crooked deals have been going on in this hobby for a very long time and it is sad to have to say that. But we can educate ourselves to be aware of things to lookout for and how to verify it is an honest sell.

What brought this to my attention is what I discovered just a few days ago on QRZ.COM Swap Meet page. First a ham friend of mine for many years sent me an email stating that he saw a real good deal on QRZ for a HF radio I might be interested in. It is show below;

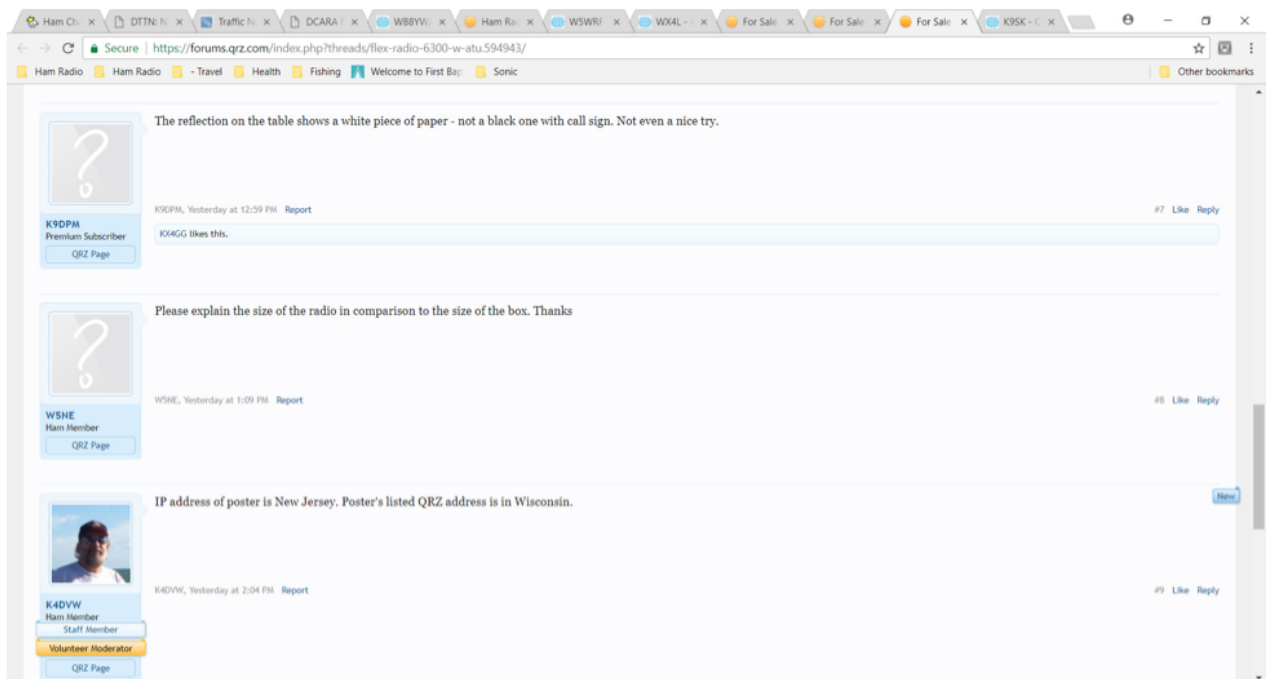


When you first look at this page it looks great, here is a used FLEX 6300 with all the add on for a very good price that is at least \$300 dollars lower then you have ever seen and this radio comes with some of the add on. That is clue number **ONE**, price is too good. Now look below at the picture of the radio;



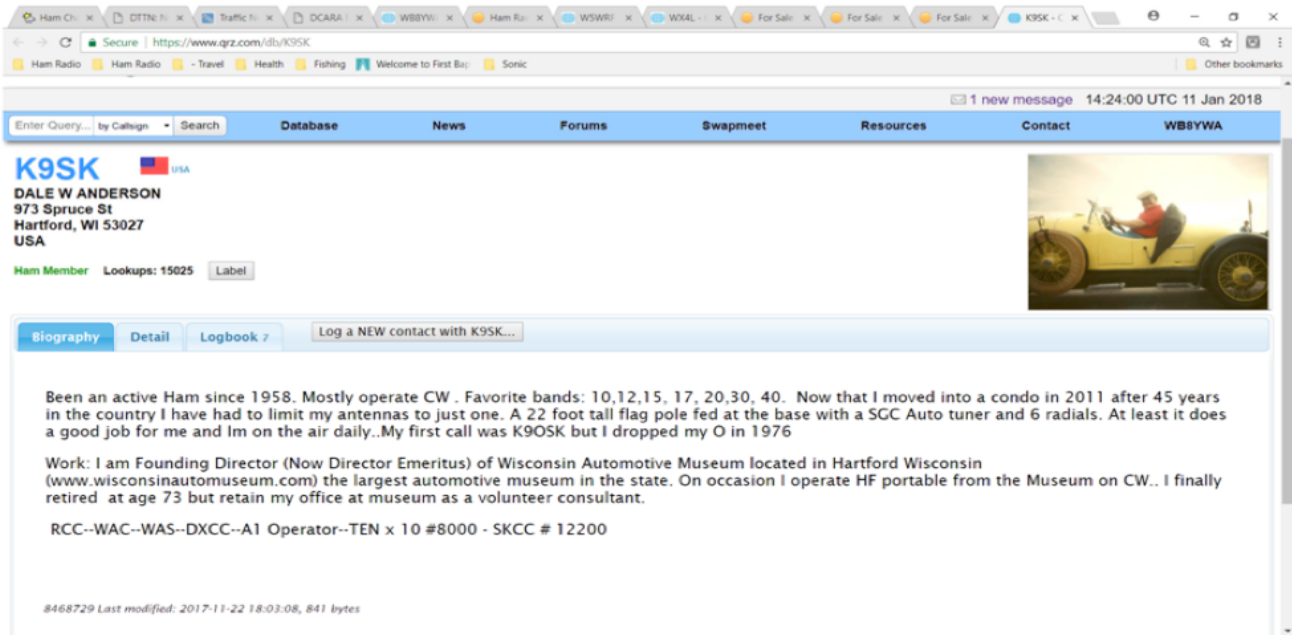
Clue number TWO shows up real fast if you are looking for clues and not just excited about the great deal you have found. Look close at the picture, does the radio look the size of the box or the other radio sitting on a box to the left. This has been photo shot. QRZ also request that you put a QSL card or place a card with your call sign on it. The K9SK card is not hand made, it is not a QSL and if you look close you will notice that the black (dark) card is producing a white reflection on to the desk top. More photo shot going on.

These two clues should make you run from this as fast as you can. But if you still want to look farther, scroll down and you will see posting by other hams asking questions or as this one stating what they don't see;



Sometimes these add's are so new that no one has posted anything yet. You can find other clues by looking at their QRZ Blog page. In the upper left side of the add page is a section that might have a picture (this one does not) has his call sign K9SK and just below that is a tag called QRZ Page.

By clicking on this link you will go directly to K9SK page which is below;



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the QRZ.com profile for K9SK. The browser tabs include 'Ham Ct', 'DITN', 'Traffic', 'DCARA', 'WBYW', 'Ham R', 'WSWR', 'WXL', 'For Sale', and 'K9SK'. The address bar shows 'https://www.qrz.com/db/K9SK'. The profile header includes the call sign 'K9SK', a US flag, and the name 'DALE W ANDERSON' with address '973 Spruce St, Hartford, WI 53027, USA'. It also indicates 'Ham Member' and 'Lookups: 15025'. Below the header are tabs for 'Biography', 'Detail', and 'Logbook'. The biography text reads: 'Been an active Ham since 1958. Mostly operate CW. Favorite bands: 10,12,15, 17, 20,30, 40. Now that I moved into a condo in 2011 after 45 years in the country I have had to limit my antennas to just one. A 22 foot tall flag pole fed at the base with a SGC Auto tuner and 6 radials. At least it does a good job for me and Im on the air daily..My first call was K9OSK but I dropped my O in 1976'. The work section states: 'Work: I am Founding Director (Now Director Emeritus) of Wisconsin Automotive Museum located in Hartford Wisconsin (www.wisconsinautomuseum.com) the largest automotive museum in the state. On occasion I operate HF portable from the Museum on CW.. I finally retired at age 73 but retain my office at museum as a volunteer consultant.' The call sign information is 'RCC--WAC--WAS--DXCC--A1 Operator--TEN x 10 #8000 - SKCC # 12200'. A footer note says '8468729 Last modified: 2017-11-22 18:03:08, 841 bytes'. A photo of a vintage yellow car is visible on the right side of the profile.

From looking at this page you might find more clues like picture of radio in shack photo, check to see if his email address is same in add and so on.

If I am still interested I always email the party and by reading the blog above get into a small conversation back and forth asking key questions that give more clues. Below are a few things more to help keep it honest;

- Never use Pay Pal to friends – can never get return of funds.
- Make sure email address makes sense;
 - wb8ywa@arrl.net – must be okay a crook would not be a member of the ARRL
 - Call sign only as beginning of address like; wb8ywa@gmail.com should be okay. Should not have anything except call, for each call is equate so no need to add to it in email address.
 - Phone number area code matches area his QRZ page says he is from is a big one. Area code is New Jersey but QRZ states he is from Wisconsin run from it.

I do not want to scare anyone away from buying use gear on line, but wanted to shed some information that could help you. I would say of the 1000's of ads on QRZ most of them are legit and just a few are crooks out to get you to send money for nothing in return. I have purchase with caution without problems. I like ads that are in the DFW area best but have just purchase two pieces of test equipment from a Ham in California and am very happy with purchase. Will also state QRZ is real good a watching these ads and Flag ones they have concerns on.

73 until next time.

This year's Winter Field Day 2018

By Jim Horton, WB8YWA

Well, winter Field Day for 2018 has come and gone. Again this year we held it at Conner Pavilion Lake Park on January 27 & 28. It was a great time and I feel it was very successful. It's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and these two are no exceptions.



Jim Lavin K5VZ operating with his KX3 out of his BBQ trailer. Man! Every time I went to visit him, I got hungry from the great BBQ smell. You can see how Jim mounted his 6BTV Vertical on his trailer hitch. Jim had great success with this setup.



Here is Clark Highsmith K5LGX sit up in the Pavilion using his ICOM 7100 and BuddiPole. He had this antenna set up for 15/20 & 40 meters at different times. You will see by contacts he made below it was also very successful.



Couple pictures of Ron Bath KG5VIS operating and Ron Ford KF5OMH Logging on our third station setup by Jim Horton WB8YWA. It was ICOM 746 and antennas were a 5BTV Vertical mounted on the metal roof of the 40' by 100' pavilion and a full size 160 meter dipole.

This is what we did it the little over 24 hour period of Winter Filed Day;

- Work 47 different sections
- 33 different states worked
- 1 Providence work
- Operated on 160, 80, 40, 20 & 15 meter bands
- Antennas were;
 - 6BTV ground mounted on BBQ Trailer Hitch
 - Buddipole set up on push up pole 18'
 - 5BTV roof mounted on 40 by 100 feet metal roof
 - 160 meter dipole with apex at 40 plus feet.
- Clark using his Buddipole and ICOM 7100 worked 9 states.
- 3 HF Stations
 - Elecraft KX3
 - ICOM 7100

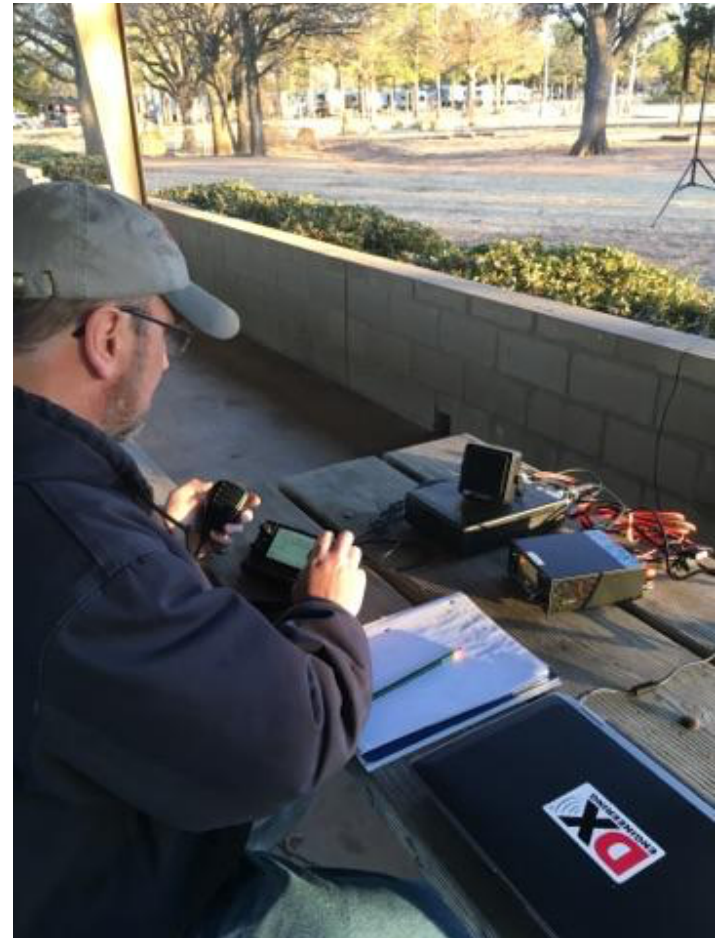
The Two Ron's at Field Day (Continued)

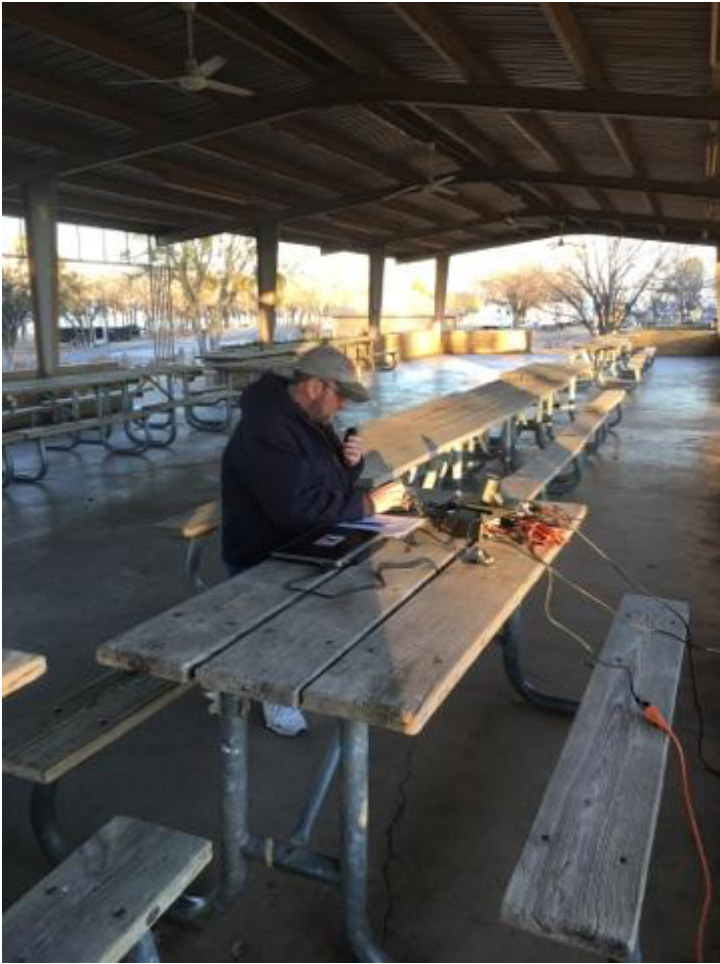
- ICOM 746
- Lee K5WXR set up his ARDEN network.
- Made 75 different contacts.
- Also had 145.170 FM rig setup with antenna for talk-in.
- Had 11 Club Members Present - wish we could have had more.
- Had 5 non ham guest visit to see what we were doing. Get time for us to show off ham radio.

This is a great time for hams to see and play with different HF antenna, see how they get installed, to sit down on different rigs and make contacts. All with an Elmer right there to walk you through it.

Needless to say we had a very good time. Remember we are doing this again in June for our Summer Field Day, so make plans now, to help setup, operate, or just help out.

Big thank you goes out to Mike Reitz W5EVT Operation Director for all his work in sitting this up for us. Club would like to also thank the three members who setup their rigs and antennas. For Lee K5WXDR in his work on the ARDEN Network. In last but by far not least all members who came out and had fun.





Reports are Interactive

To view full report:
Place cursor over [blue link](#)
and Double click on left
mouse button.



Current News



Club Reports

Treasurer's Report - Jan, 2018

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/>

Meeting Minutes - Jan, 2018

(Unavailable at Press Time)



DX'ers Holy Grail

Steve Kline, our VE Coordinator came across an interesting story unfolding at the bottom of the world.

He is working on the story presently and plans to share it in our next newsletter when the drama comes to a conclusion.

We all dream of making contact with a radio operator at the furthest point on Earth, and that just may become possible in the near future.

A research ship is struggling to escape high waves and crushing ice at the bottom of the world to establish a radio station on a remote, frozen, uninhabited island.

Little news is being shared with the world as the mission has temporarily been called off as the ship and her crew struggle to survive the Arctics grip and return to safer waters.

Word has it that the plan is to set up a HAM radio station at the furthest point on Earth. Steve recently shared with me the amazing fete it would be to DX and contact this station.

Story coming soon. For now:

Ron Bath for Steve Kline

On Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 Ron Bath, PIO (Public Information Officer) attended a joint breakfast meeting with members representing several North Texas Amateur Radio Associations. There were about 20 of us representing LARRK, DCARA and LARA. There was much discussion about the coming Denton County Maker Faire.

Several of us coordinated the projects, signage and miscellaneous items we plan to bring to the table. Exhibits to be featured at the faire include:

L.A.R.A Entries

- o Two Meter J-Pole Antenna - Ron B./Mike/Ron F./Jim Horton
- o Oscilloscope Kit - Ron B./Ron F.
- o 3-D Printed HAM related Parts - Ron/Jim Lavin

LARRK and DCARA Entries

- o 40M QRP transceiver - Ken M.
- o Antennas - Ken M.
- o Balloon payload - Steve
- o Laptop and projector with balloon flight videos - Steve and screen - Bob
- o ARDEN node - Steve
- o VHF go kit - Steve
- o WA5VJB Cheap Yagis - Steve
- o Raspberry Pi based spectrum analyzer - Bob
- o Light bulb antenna, maybe others - Scott

Scott Boutwell and Ron Bath will be proudly representing L.A.R.A. at the Faire.

All amateur radio enthusiasts, DIY (Do-it-Yourselfers), Robotic hobbyists etc. are cordially invited to this interesting event.

Event Information

Event: Denton County Mini Maker Faire

Maker Faire is part science fair, part county fair, and part something entirely new! As a celebration of the Maker Movement, it's a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness.

Location: Denton Civic Center

321 E McKinney St

Denton, TX 76201

(940) 349-8385

Admission Fee: Adults \$10.00 and Youth Under 18 Free

Saturday, February 24th 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM CST

For further information contact: Ron Bath, KG5VIS

aro.kg5vis@gmail.com



Breaking News

Reporter: Ron Bath, KG5VIS

Our clubs three members Ron Ford - KF5OMH, Mike Reitz - W5EVT and Jim Horton - WB8YWA are winging there way to Orlando Florida to attend the HamCation held the 9th, 10th and 11th. HamCation is one of the biggest amateur radio conventions in the country.

During the last conversation with this reporter, it was learned that they planned to meet up with thier "on-the-air" friends of up to 40 years. Some of these fellow radio operators have never met in person, even though they may talk to each other as frequently as every morning over the radio. This should facilitate a great time of fellowship and of putting the faces with the "on-the-air" voices.

We wish three of L.A.R.A.'s finest a fun and safe journey.



Worlds Radio Amateurs

Few governments maintain detailed demographic statistics of their amateur radio operator populations, aside from recording the total number of licensed operators. The majority of amateur radio operators worldwide reside in Japan, the United States, Thailand, South Korea, and the nations of Europe. The top five countries by percentage of the population are Japan, Slovenia, Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand. Only the governments of Yemen and North Korea currently prohibit their citizens from becoming amateur radio operators. In some countries, acquiring an amateur radio license is difficult because of the bureaucratic processes or fees that place access to a license out of reach for most citizens. Most nations permit foreign nationals to earn an amateur radio license, but very few amateur radio operators are licensed in multiple countries.

Credit: Wikipedia



FOR BOATERS, IT'S RADIO TO THE RESCUE

PAUL/ANCHOR: We now hear an example of amateur radio doing what it does best: Neil Rapp WB9VPG brings us this dramatic story of a ham radio net and a sailboat rescue off the coast of Jamaica.

NEIL'S REPORT: This was one of those times when all that practice paid off. As ham radio operators, we often spend time communicating on our favorite modes and participating in our favorite activities. But the Maritime Mobile Service Net recently had the unfortunate need to make use of their preparation. It's just another example of the phrase from the bumper sticker, "Ham Radio Saves Lives." On January 4, net control Ken Porter, AC0ML, received an emergency call on the net's usual frequency, 14.300. Jim Matusiak, VE0KMP, and his wife were aboard the sailing vessel "Solar Flair" dealing with high winds. Jim reported that the ship had lost the two head sails, and was operating only with the main sail. Ken informed them that the net would be listening in case there were any additional problems. The next day, the main sail was also damaged, and the ship's motor wouldn't start. Both Jim and his wife were exhausted and needed to be rescued. Assistant Net Manager Jeff Savasta, KB4JKL, tells us the rest.



JEFF: With the help of additional net control stations here on the Maritime Net, we were able to in fact effect a successful rescue via the Jamaican Coast Guard ship HMJS Middlesex that was dispatched to the area and they came on frequency. They actually came on frequency on 14.300 to speak with both AC0ML and the Solar Flair to confirm the positions. And, they're not licensed amateurs. But of course, in times of emergency, they can come on at anytime. Or, any station can come on at anytime if it's a declared emergency.

NEIL: The rescue was completed, and everyone is just fine thanks to the help of all who assisted. The net is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and meets on 14.300 daily from 1700 to 0200 UTC. Jeff sums up the purpose of the maritime net.

JEFF: Our agency motto is "Where emergency communications is a commitment." And, I think this really exemplifies the fact that the Maritime Mobile Service Network operates daily to just listen for these types of emergencies.

And, we're there serving the public since 1968. And like a lot of the operators who rely on us for this service have said many, many times... "It's our lifeline." And it truly is.

NEIL: Reporting for Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Neil Rapp WB9VPG.

(JEFF SAVASTA KB4JKL)





HAM RADIO MAKES LIFE HAPPY

Volume 3 Issue 2, Rev.1 February 13th, 2018