

goodbye

July

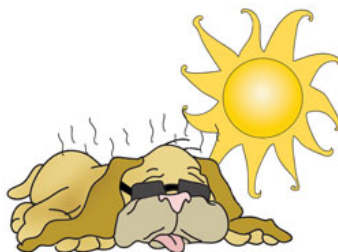
hello

AUGUST

please be legendary

# LARA Newsletter

Volume 3 - Issue 8 August 12th, 2018



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KG5VIS  
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## Notice

Due to Vacation Schedules, etc. Our Minutes for the July Club and Officer's Meetings will be Distributed via E-mail.

Have You Got a Story Idea?

Your entry may be emailed to [arokg5vis@gmail.com](mailto:arokg5vis@gmail.com) NLT 09/09/18 by 5 PM. All entries shall contain the following information:

Name:  
Call Sign:  
Date:  
Story Idea:  
Picture (optional):



### Breakfast & Club Members Meetings - August, 2018

#### Breakfast

- 4 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.
- 11 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.

#### Business

- 18 - Saturday @ 8AM Site B.

#### Breakfast

- 25 - Saturday @ 8AM Site A.



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### Key:

Site A. - Mill Street Diner, 727 S Mill Street, Lewisville, TX 75057

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](mailto:W5LVC.Club@gmail.com)

### Check us out:

Facebook: [facebook.com/w5lvc/](https://www.facebook.com/w5lvc/)

# 2017 - 2018 Officers & Support

**President**

Ron Ford, KF5OMH (972) 742-7839  
rfavcon@verizon.net

**Vice President**

Mike Reitz, W5EVT (214) 535-1368  
w5evt@sbcglobal.net

**Secretary**

Ron Swain, KG5VIV (210) 410-2008  
Ironswain@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Clark Highsmith, K5LGX (Un-listed)  
alacrity@bennoah.net

**Technical Director**

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wb8ywa@aarl.net

**Operations Director**

Dale Chatham, WA5WNI (972) 526-3562  
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**Public Information Officer****Webmister—W5LVC.org****Newsletter Editor**

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Association membership is open to all persons interested in amateur radio. Join at any meeting, by mail or on-line through our web site. Annual dues are \$25 individual, \$30 family.



## From The President's Shack

Don't miss this month's meeting on Saturday, August 18 when Roger, AE5EZ, will be presenting the program on antennas – those you can see and those you can't. I think you will find Roger's presentation very interesting. Remember, bring a guest, and be entered in the year end drawing to win a gift certificate from HRO.

The Scouting Jamboree-on-the-Air is fast approaching. This event is one of the club's best public events. It will be held at Conner Pavilion at Lake Park on Lake Lewisville on Saturday, October 20. Operating times will be 10:00 – 17:00. This is also the October meeting day so we'll hold the meeting at the park and then transition to the event. Mike, W5EVT, and his JOTA committee have been very busy putting the plans together and getting publicity out to the scouting community. From all appearances, this is going to be our best JOTA event yet and we are in need of help – help and more help. There is a need for at least six more individuals to help man the registration table, assist at the four radio stations and help man the PIO table. This is a club sponsored event and that means that we expect members to step up and help. Even if you can't stay for the entire event every little bit will help. Contact Mike, W5EVT, at 214-535-1368 and arrange a time period and task you would like to help with.

Thanks to Dale, WA5WNI, for volunteering to fill in as Net Control on the Saturday evening General and Extra Study Net while Tim, WZ5TM, is not available. As of this writing, Tim is in Medical City Lewisville Hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Speaking of nets, tune in on the 145.170 repeater on Wednesday at 1900 for the weekly Information and Help Net hosted by Jim, WB8YWA. Thanks to Mike, W5EVT for filling in as Net Control on this net while Jim took a few weeks' vacation in the high **cool** mountains of Colorado.

Looking forward to a full house at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

73

Ron KF5OMH

# Treasurer's Report

July was a fairly slow month financially speaking. There was one theme though: new members! Because of the influx of dues we had a positive gain of \$82.26 for the month. Please remember LARA when shopping on Amazon Smile. Also, we still have shirts available for \$25.00.

Clark Highsmith — K5LGX  
LARA Treasurer

July 2018

## LARA Treasurer's Report – July 31, 2018

### Checking Account

Beginning Balance \$3,530.77

#### Income

Dues	\$67.50
Donations	\$12.50
ARRL	\$0.00
Stickers	\$3.00
Shirts	\$0.00
Equip. Sales	\$0.00
Total Income	\$83.00

#### Expenses

Fees	\$0.74
ARRL	\$0.00
JOTA	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.74

Ending Balance \$3,613.03

Petty Cash (Included in balance) \$3.00

### CLUB ASSETS

For Sale	\$0.00
Stock (Not for Sale)	\$789.95
Loaner Equipment	\$1,395.00

\$2,184.95

### **LARA NET VALUE**

\$5,797.98





**Information and Tips – The fun of involving other club members and chasing Special Event Stations**

By Jim Horton WB8YWA

For a week around July 4<sup>th</sup> there is a special event called “Original 13 Colonies Special Event. This year it ran from July 1<sup>st</sup> through July 8<sup>th</sup>. There are 13 station locations with 2 bonus stations. The 13 are located in each state of the original colonies and use the special call sign of K2\*, A-M each representing a state. The two bonus contacts use special call sign WM3PEN located in Philadelphia and GB13COL located in Great Britain. The goal is to work at least the 13 colonies and by submitting your log sheet you can obtain a neat looking certificate. They charge \$5 for postage and cost.

First year I work this Special Event was 2011 and obtain each station over the weeklong event on mix modes and bands. Even though there are pile ups on the stations it was fun and pretty easy since I was jumping from band to band and different modes. Above is the 2011 Certificate that I obtain.



Few years pass and last year. 2017 Mike, W5EVT stated he was going to work this event. Well, I couldn't let him just have all the fun so said I would also work the event. Short story we did and we had a blast being competitors, spotting buddies, at times frustration, few mistakes and a lot of fun. We both obtain our goal by using 20 and 40 meters we were able to make each of the contacts we needed for our 2017 Certificate, seen below.



Information and Tips – The fun of involving other club members and chasing Special Event Stations  
By Jim Horton WB8YWA - (Continued) Page 2 of 2

When this year came around Mike and I started talking about doing this again and got Ron, KF50MH interested. This time Mike & I put special conditions on it for us. Work all of them on 40 meters and then turn around and work them all on 20. Again it was even more fun because we double it up and Ron was in the mix. We would watch DX spotting web sites and text each other when stations were on to what band and mode. One time during a pile up on a station we had tried and tried to work was on. He starting asking for call area numbers, he would ask for 1's, then 2's and down the list. When he got to the fives Mike throw his call out there and got him. I wanted until the 8's where ask to call. While all the 8's started calling from Michigan, Ohio and WV (which were a lot closer to him then I was in Texas) , my call was lost in the pileup. So I waited until he got around to the 5's again and I jump in there as WB8YWA/5. Got him on first call. Mike and I both got all the needed stations on both 20 and 40 meters. Ron didn't have the time to put into it and did not make it. But still have a lot of fun trying and did work many of them. Below is a sample certificate that Mike and I will be receiving.



Working special event stations can be a lot of fun. Can test you and your equipment. And to me it is a lot more fun when you have a couple of your friends involved. So look in QST for many special event stations that are operating though out the year, grab a friend and go have some fun as we did.



**Club News** - If you've received good news to share with us in the event you've received your new license, gotten married or won the lottery, etc., please share it with our club members. Email your Good News to [arokg5vis@gmail.com](mailto:arokg5vis@gmail.com).

Member John Courtney passed his test for Technician license and was issued the call letters KI5BBE. He made his first contact with Ron Ford and received his "First Contact Certificate" from our president Ron Ford. Congratulations to John!

Member Tim Monk, WZ5TM was hospitalized recently. He has been moved from MCL to Lake Park Nursing and Rehab, 169 Lake Park Rd. in Lewisville. The facility is located between I-35 and Mill St. on Lake Park Rd. Sorry, I don't have a direct phone number but the number to the facility is 972-436-7571. Visitors are welcome but is a good idea to call ahead due to his dialysis requirements. Please keep Tim and his wife in your prayers.

Our Vice President Mike Reitz can attest to the fact that excitement is mounting as we prepare for our annual Scouting Jamboree-on-the-Air event with the Boy and Girl Scouts of America being introduced to the wonderful world of amateur radio. It will be held at Conner Pavilion at Lake Park on Lake Lewisville on Saturday, October 20. Operating times will be 10:00 – 17:00.

Our Operations Director Dale Chatham - WA5WNI is busy at work on his new communications trailer. It will have satellite communications capability and a host of full function radio gear. Future plans are for Dale to deploy it to area schools to introduce students to amateur radio.

## Special Recognition

A word of thanks goes out to John Courtney - KI5BBE for installing the antenna ground on Ron Bath - KG5VIS's 2 meter antenna. Now Ron's wife Ellen won't have to remind Ron to unplug the antenna lead from his radio each time it storms.

Thanks to Mike Reitz - W5EVT, Dale Chatham - WA5WNI and Ron Ford - KF5OMH for filling in as Net Control and performing Net Logger duties on our Wednesday evening Help Net while our faithful Net Control Jim Horton - WB8YWA was on vacation recently.

## Congratulations Are in Order

### New Assignments

Dale Chatham - WA5WNI, Operations Director - Congratulations on stepping up to take over the Saturday evening General and Extra Class Technical Net.



When you find someone in our club deserving of congratulations or special recognition please send your email recommendation to: [aro.kg5VIS@gmail.com](mailto:aro.kg5VIS@gmail.com) for publication in our next newsletter.

# WA5WNI's High Proof Homebrew

## WA5WNI

Dale Chatham

Dale.Chatham@gmail.com

This is the first in a series of articles on homebrewing in the shack. Before we start discussing how to homebrew, we probably need a basic discussion on what to homebrew and where to get the ingredients.

Homebrew in the shack has morphed over the years. In the beginnings of my interest in ham radio, it was not uncommon for hams to homebrew transmitters and transceivers. Although that is certainly possible today, I am going to suggest that most of us don't have that kind of patience, commercial gear is too good and too inexpensive to make the value proposition for homebrewing a complex transceiver pay off. However, a homebrewed 5 watt APRS transmitter is certainly a possibility.

Please provide feedback. I do not pretend to be able to come up with an exhaustive list of what hams might be interested in homebrewing nor do I pretend to know what interests the members of this club (though I have had conversations with some members). I do suggest that such a list includes the following broad topics:

- Simple electronics to perform some function  
This could be almost anything, but certainly would include things like audio mixing, microphone mixing
- Antennas  
At the most basic end of this topic are basic dipoles and verticals. However, there are more complex antennas possible, yagis (both single and multi band) yagi arrays (stacked to increase performance and crossed to create circular polarization for satellite work, phased arrays, electronically rotated arrays for fox hunting, etc.).
- Amplifiers  
I'll toss in audio amplifiers here, but also RF amplifiers whether tube or transistor. The cost savings for a 1.5kW solid state power amplifier (SSPA) over a commercial unit can be a factor of 5 or more. Also, with the advent of microcontrollers, bells and whistles are mostly software.
- Software Defined Radio
- Control circuits  
Circuits to control the operation of a solid state amplifier. These are about \$25 worth of electronics to protect \$500 worth of transistors in that SSPA.
- Test Equipment  
Antenna analyzers, Time Domain Reflectometry, Spectrum Analyzers, SWR Meters, ...  
With the advent of SBCs and controllers, along with digitally controlled signal generators, this becomes Lego blocks and software



- Utilizing single board computers to automate a function or functions  
There are a plethora of single board computers out there, the most popular being a RaspberryPi. For less than \$50 you get a credible computer with gigabytes of memory, tens of megabites of "disk", USB, Ethernet, WiFi, HDMI, audio, ... There are lots of commercially available add on boards to expand the I/O capability (PiHat).
- Utilizing single board microcontrollers to control something in the shack  
Again, lots of these out there, but most think of the Arduino. Not a computer, but a microcontroller capable of may kinds of I/O, digital, analog or pulse width modulation (PWM). Again, lots of add-on boards in the form of "shields".
- Utilizing microcontrollers to control something in combination with other projects.  
Again, an abundance of possibilities exist. However, the arguably best of the choices is the PIC series. These exist in 8, 16 and 32 bit versions. Have a broad range of memory configurations. Many choices for I/O. Component footprints range from 8 pins to 64 pins and more.
- Mechanical devices  
Items such as masts, cabinets, bulkheads through which to get antenna cables from inside the shack to the outside.
- CNC Machines  
3D printers, CNC routers, laser etching machines, and a host of others.
- PCB manufacture  
Crosses a lot of technologies, from electronic design automation (EDA) to printed circuit board creation.
- Shack Automation
- Software
- Others? This is where your input is useful.



# Cool DX'ing Contest

We have a winner!

Congratulations to **Roger Carver** AE5EZ who sent in the winning entry:

CONTACT NAME: Mark J STEPHENSON  
Call sign: VK3PI  
Location: MDC BUNDOORA, Victoria 3083  
Australia  
Grid: QF22MH44  
Outside Temperature: 10 C  
Date: 2018.07.23

Roger also sent in the second coolest entry as "Runner Up":

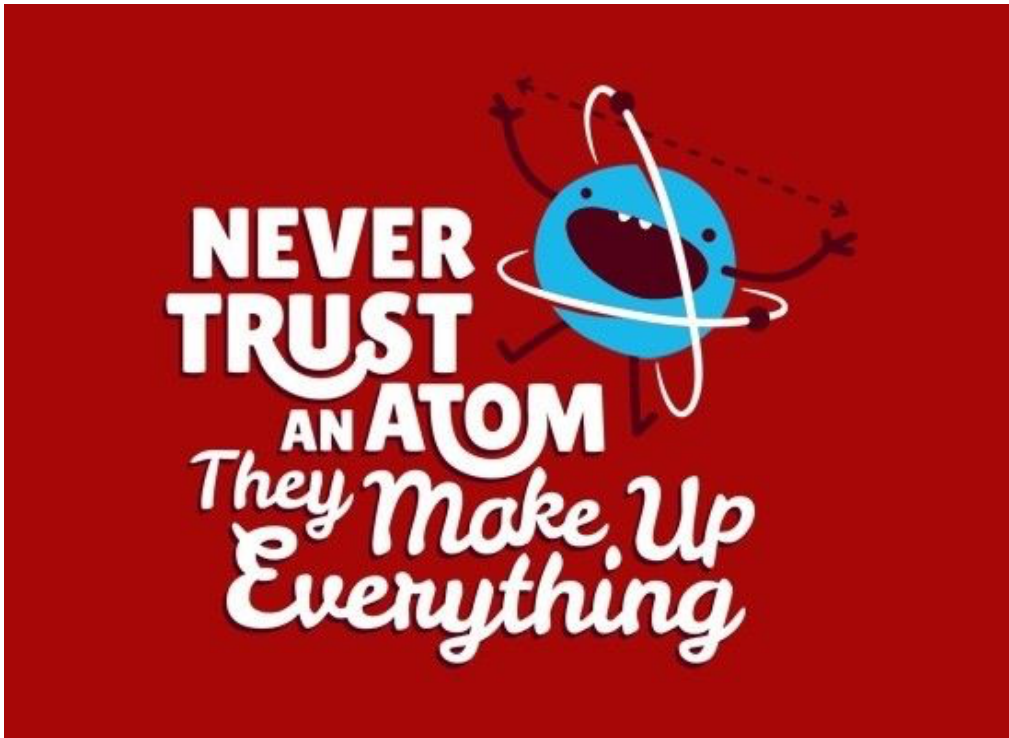
Well done Roger Carver - AE5EZ!  
Contact Name: Tom Spoljaric  
Call Sign: VK3NXT  
Location: Berwick Victoria, AUS  
Grid: QF21qx  
Outside Temperature: 15 C  
Date: 2018.07.22 -0045  
Entrant: Roger Carver - AE5EZ

Roger will be receiving a cool certificate suitable for framing.



## HAM Humor

What Happens in the shack... Stays in the Shack!



Submitted by: Ron Bath - KG5VIS

Submissions: Please email us your humorous stories about funny events in your life that were part of the amateur radio "Mad Inventor" experience to: [aro.kg5vis@gmail.com](mailto:aro.kg5vis@gmail.com)



You may address any comments or suggestions to the editor at:  
[aro.kg5vis@gmail.com](mailto:aro.kg5vis@gmail.com)