

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club



President- Keith Mumaw KI5VNL Vice-President- Sharon McEachern- KK5SM Secretary-Sarah Richardson- KI5PZF

Treasurer- James Hunt- KI5DQ Trustee- Dr.Mike Durbin - K5MJD

September 2024 K5FRC TREASURER'S



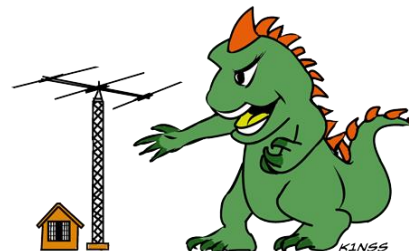
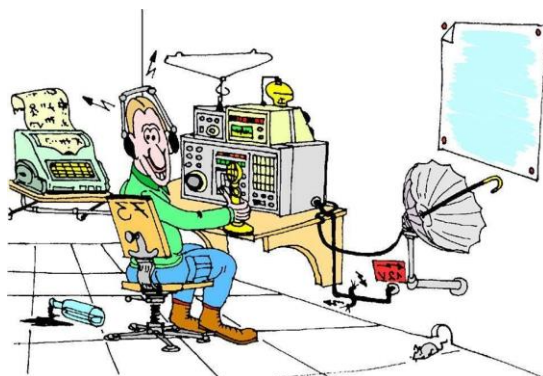
November "2024 K5FRC TREASURER'S

Currently, the club has a balance of \$2468.24 in its checking account and a balance of \$225.31 in its savings account. Since our last club meeting, the club has had the following deposits and expenditures:

A deposit of \$224.00 and \$48.00.

The club has had 4 expenditure since last month's meeting, Check 178 @ \$72.00, check 179 @ \$162.10, Check 180 @ \$700, check 181 @ \$121.50.

73's,
James
KI5DQ



K5FRC REPEATERS

145.470 (100Hz tone; -600Khz offset)
C4FM or Analog; IRLP 3602;
ECHOLINK 143903

Tuesday Night Net 8:00 PM
442.525 (100HZ TONE; +5.0 Mhz offset)
C4FM or Analog;
443.750 (100Hz tone; +5.0Mhz offset)
C4FM or Analog;

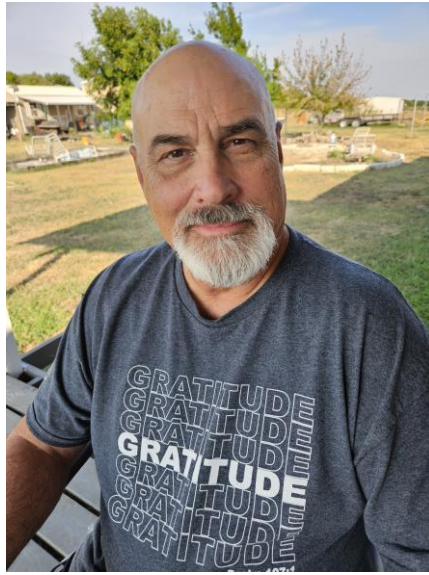
CROSS BAND IN BONHAM IS ON
445.200 SIMPLEX WITH 100Hz.TONE

FCARC meets every third Saturday at
9:00 AM at the Bois D'Arc Creek
Cowboy Church

ZOOM sessions are held every Tuesday
at 7:00 PM CST before the net on the
145.470 Mhz repeater. Website:

www.k5frc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/K5FRC/
Mark, KF5KUW is the administrator.
Website: www.k5frc.org



PRESIDENTS REPORT

“The Future of Ham Radio”

By Keith Mumaw – FCARC President

I have been reading a lot of articles lately about the *“Future of Ham Radio,”* and none of the so-called experts can agree. Some say that its’ future lies in the new technology known as *“AI”* while others seem focused on advanced SDR and digital with all the bells and whistles, while others are holding out for *“Old School Radio.”* In other words, there is no common consensus except for the belief that what we have now will still be around for the foreseeable future.

But I look at the future of ham radio a little differently and tend to focus on the human side not the technological side. My focus on the future started at our October *“Go Bag”* and *“Scouts on the Air”* event at Bois D Arc Creek Reservoir. We were blessed to have a young family show up with two eager scouts working on a *“Radio Merit Badge.”* It was interesting listening to the questions being asked and more so, the answers being given by our members.

As with anything in life, the participants start to age out and if the passion is not passed forward to the next generation, it will die out. As we move forward into 2025, I would like to challenge every member of FCARC to reach out to those around them and give an invitation to come to our meetings to see for themselves what *“Ham Rado”* is all about. I want us to also focus on existing *“Hams.”* As there are over one hundred licensed operators in Fannin County.

As a club, we also need to find new ways to make radio time fun and an experience that will make people want to come back time and time again. We all know the feeling we experienced with our first HF contact, and building our first antenna. These are the things that caught our attention, and for some, they still do.

I would like to challenge every member to reach out and promote our hobby every chance you get. Remember that the *“Spirit of Giving”* is just around the corner, and maybe setting up a portable rig might spark some interest.

73

Keith (KI5VNL)

President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024-VP REPORT SHARON MCEACHERN KK5SM



I cannot believe we are halfway through November, and the end of the year is closing in on us. It's the time of year when the world is reflecting on days gone, and all the things we have in which to give thanks.

This month I've included a few famous "Hams", but they can't touch the "Hams" that are in our club, FOR WHICH I AM THANKFUL!!!!!!

It's a given that many engineers and astro/cosmonauts are Hams – they work in technical fields, so it's really not much of a surprise that they're licensed. Nevertheless, did you know the following people were Hams?

Ray Dolby (SK) – American engineer, founder of Dolby Laboratories, **F5VBY**

Akio Morita (SK) – Founder of Sony, **JP1DPJ**

Masaru Ibuka (SK) – Co-founder of Sony, **J3BB**

Bob Moog (SK) – Inventor of the Moog Synthesizer, **K2AMH**

Howard Hughes (SK) – Billionaire, Filmmaker, Aviator, Aircraft designer, **W5CY**

Leo Fender (SK) – Designer of Musical Instruments, Mr "Fender Electric Guitars", **W6DOE**

Nolan Bushnell – Founder of Atari, **W7DUK**

David Packard (SK) – Co-founder of Hewlett Packard, **9DRV**

Jack Kilby (SK) – Invented the Microchip and hand Held Digital Calculator, **W9GTY**

There are just too many astro/cosmonauts to name – they're all amateurs (not really, but close).

How about some dignitaries or royalty?

Qaboos Bin Said Al-Said – Sultan of Oman, **A41AA**

King Hassan II (SK) – King of Morocco, **CN8MH**

Juan Carlos I of Spain, **EA0JC**

Bhumiphol Adulayadej (SK) – King of Thailand, **HS1A**

Francego Cossiga (SK) – Former Italian President, **I0FCG**

Keizo Obuchi – Japanese Prime Minister, **J11KIT**

King Hussain of Jordan (SK) – **JY1**

Carlos Saul Menem – President of Argentina, **LU1SM**

Emil Lahoud – President of Lebanon, **OD5LE**

Prince Talal of Saudi Arabia, **SU1VN**

Rajiv Ghandi (SK) – Late Prime Minister of India, **VU2RG**

Albert II – Prince of Monaco, **3A0AG**

From the “Well how about that?!” department:

Walter Cronkite (SK) – “The worlds most recognized” US television newsreader, **KB2GSD**

Patty Loveless – Country Music Singer, **KD4WUJ**

James Lance Bass – ‘N SYNC pop singer, **KG4UYY**

Paul Tibbets (SK) – pilot of the “Enola Gay” aircraft that dropped the first A-Bomb in WW2, **K4ZVZ**

Priscilla Presley – Film star & businesswoman. Was Married to Elvis Presley, **NY6YOS**

Joe Walsh – Of The Eagles & James Gang, **WB6ACU**

Donnie Osmond – Singer, **WD4SKT**

Sir Cliff Richard – Singer (USA callsign), **W2JOF**

Tim Allen – Actor, comedian, “Tim the Tool-Man Taylor”, **KK6OTD** Marlon Brando

(SK) – Hollywood Actor, **KE6PZH** and **FO5GJ**

AND MORE.....

Senator Barry Goldwater (SK) - Given honorary life membership in the Fort Myers, Florida Amateur Radio Club. The former Senator was also presented a trophy for his service to amateur radio. Senator Goldwater sponsored legislation to shape the regulation of amateur radio in the United States, **K7UGA**

Ronnie Milsap - American country music singer and pianist, **WB4KCG AND THERE’S**

STILL MANY MORE.....

And from the “Well, of course!” department:

Tokuzo Inoue – Founder of ICOM, **JA3FA**

Bob Heil – Legendary sound engineer to The Eagles & The Who, Head of Heil Sound, **K9EID**

Hiram Percy Maxim (SK) – Prolific Inventor & ARRL founder, **W1AW**

Dr “Joe” Taylor – Discovered binary pulsars, inventor of weak signal modes, **K1JT**

SARAH RICHARDSON
KI5PZF
SECRETARY

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
"Go-Box" Regular Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2024



The FCARC met at Bois D'Arc Lake 897 Boat Ramp for the regular monthly meeting, to demonstrate "Go-Box" setups and antennas, in conjunction with the Boy Scouts Jamboree-On-The-Air/Internet (JOTA/JOTI). The local scouts were invited to join us and participate in the on-air activities.

President Keith Mumaw (KI5VNL) called meeting to order at 0900, Mike Lindsey (KD5UNY) led the pledge, Duncan Berry (KG5NDO) led the invocation.

President Keith asked everyone to be an ambassador for the club, to be a "hambassador" for the activities the club engages in, especially with the youth.

Vice President Sharon McEachern (KK5SM) has enjoyed to the historical research for her articles for the newsletter. Her primary objective now is the nominations for the 2025 slate of officers for the club to vote on in December. She will have the nominations at the November meeting.

Treasurer James Hunt (KI5DQ) reports checking balance of \$2,589.34, savings balance of \$225.31, with no income for the month, one expenditure of \$700.00 for repeater expense. Sarah Richardson (KI5PZF) made the motion to accept the treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Mark Hetherington (KF5KUW), motion carried.

Secretary Sarah Richardson (KI5PZF) reported there was not a quorum at the September meeting, so there was no business conducted. Report is in the newsletter of the rag chewing done while at the Sam Rayburn House Farm Heritage Day and our POTA attempt at activation. She also apologized for missing the follow-up newspaper deadline.

Trustee Dr. Mike Durbin (K5MJD) reports all repeaters and such working. The new repeater is expected at the end of the month and will go into the white trailer. Along with the repeater, will be a base and other equipment for the repeater. There will be resumption of repeater class when it arrives. The white trailer has a new generator (Thank you, Jim Thomas, N5OMD)

New business:

Dr. Mike Durbin had an offer to swap the 990 radios for the 991 for the fly away box. Duncan Berry made the motion to do the swap, James Hunt seconded, and the motion passed.

Spirit of Giving – will be the Saturday after the regular club meeting date. Goal to have 500 hotdogs, buns, and waters for the event. James Hunt will bring grill and propane. Sarah will ask about borrowing a grill and propane to have two going.

Winter Field Day – discussion for where to hold the event and location of choice was made to conduct Winter Field Day at the Honey Grove Emergency Operation Center (aka: Dr. Mike's 'Man Cave').

Duncan Berry reminded the club that the blue trailer is currently housed at his place, in cover.

Sharon reminded us of the officer election at the December meeting, still on for Windom Feed Sack.

Motion to adjourn made Mike Lindsey (KD5UNY) and seconded by Rebecca Bruner (KI5I00), club adjourned to contacting scouts for JOTA

NOW MY USUAL FUN/INFO STUFF
"I AM COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL AND ALL MY CIRCUITS ARE OPERATING NORMALLY"

Important cycles for radio amateurs.

Daily

The one change we see most clearly: the day and night change. At night, without irradiation, the ionization disappears after a few minutes to hours. This has different effects depending on the frequency. On long and medium wave, attenuating layers disappear and suddenly you hear stations from all over Europe at night. On shortwave the diffraction disappears, where before we could work Asia or the USA now nothing can be heard.



Anually

We can observe another rhythm annually. Decisive is the angle under which the sunbeams arrive here. In winter the angle is very low on the northern hemisphere of the earth and the duration of the day is also only short, the energy input into the ionosphere is lower. In summer, the angle is very steep and the sun can act much longer due to the longer daytime hours. Thus the energy input is much higher, damping layers damp longer, diffractive layers act longer. As a result, HF propagation works better on the lower bands (160m, 80m) in winter, for example, because there is less noise and we can hear better. In summer there are effects on HF and VHF, which are not to be observed otherwise in the year. An example is the so-called "Sporadic-E" propagation on the upper bands (6m and higher).

11 years

GET ON HF NOW FOR THE BEST PROPAGATION IN 11 YEARS

THE CBers THINK ITS MAGIC THEY CAN TALK EVERYWHERE

And then there is a very important cycle, and that is the every 11 years repeating change of the magnetization of the sun. The sun (and presumably every other star) is a giant dynamo, that is, a rotating something that has an electric and magnetic field. We observe that the magnetic field of the sun tilts, i.e. reverses polarity, about every 11 years. After two such passes the magnetic north pole is again at the starting point, one should talk therefore actually of a 22-year cycle. But since each tilting process north to south, south to north looks the same to us, we talk about an 11-year cycle.

The physical processes in the sun, which lead to this cycle, are not yet completely understood. Intensive research is being done here by many scientists around the world. Important for us radio amateurs are the changes in the sun's radiation intensity and the associated change in ionization in our earth's atmosphere.

Every 11 years there is a maximum in the activity of the sun. At this maximum the solar radiation is much higher and also more turbulent than at the minimum. Such a maximum of activity lasts several months. The increase of the activity from the minimum to the maximum is steeper, the change from the maximum to the minimum is flatter. A visible sign of increasing solar activity are the sunspots, darker areas on the surface,

which can be observed with special optics (Attention, never look directly into the sun with the unprotected eye!). The next solar activity maximum is expected for the year 2025.

NOTES FROM THE MEMBERS

FROM JAMES KI5DQ

Saturday 19 October - Go-Box / JOTA @ Bois D'Arc Lake 897 Boat Ramp exhibited Boy Scouts working on their Merit Badge and Go-Box action. The demonstration displayed the portable operation of amateur radio, with solar power. The weather was near perfect with gentle breeze and awesome view of the lake.

The year '2024 is nearing an end. Time to review your banking and investment opportunities. Many online sources are available. The attached link is none pressure / marketing. Just some good examples.

<https://bankingtruths.com/>

FROM MARK Part 2

My first night being back in Las Vegas, the city I grew up in (yeah, in those Frank Sinatra days.), I wandered around the Las Vegas Strip, amazed at how much it had changed, and not necessarily in what I felt was better changes. Wow, was it busy; the sidewalks were packed with folks coming and going, and there were squads of people passing out coupons and flyers, most I shouldn't repeat what they were for. It was a Tuesday night, so just imagine what the weekend would be like? I finally made it back to my hotel, got some pizza from the food court, and went up to my room to get some sleep.

Wednesday morning was, you guessed it, bright and sunny, with hardly a breeze blowing. I called Nicholas to see what he and Amber wanted to do about breakfast, as we talked about getting our grocery shopping done and being on the road no later than 9 am. Nicholas answers his phone, telling me he has been sick all night long, and he doesn't want anything at this time.

He handed Amber the phone, and we decided we would check out and head out for groceries, picking up breakfast along the way. Grocery shopping went smoothly, we grabbed some fast food, and were on the road by 9:15 am.

The drive up through Nevada was so beautiful and for the most part, peaceful. But all good things have a dark side, and we ended up being stuck for 30 minutes in the Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge, as they were repairing the highway, and traffic was one way (with a pilot car we had to follow). Sitting there, I reminisced with Nicholas about when he was a little guy and we were living in Las Vegas, we took a trip to cut ourselves a live pine Christmas tree, and we had to stop at Pahranaagat to let him and his brother get out and stretch their legs, getting the wiggles out, so we could continue. He denied any knowledge of that, but given he was 2 years old at the time, I wasn't expecting him to remember. Then he got out and stretched, and told Amber he was getting restless.

After our wait, we finally got to continue on towards our camping spot. The drive continued to be so relaxing, and the scenery was so unique - the desert can be both beautiful and ugly, depending on your perspective. After a couple more hours of driving, we came across more road construction, and having to wait once more on the pilot car. Luckily, this time we only had to wait about 10 minutes, and were back on our way.

I joked as we passed through each of the small towns along this highway, how people who didn't pay attention to the speed limit signs would be paying for their mistake. And I wasn't wrong, as in only one town they didn't have someone pulled over. Even the truckers slowed down, often a couple mph below the speed limit, as they went through these metroplexes (population usually about 150 - 200).

We reached Ely Nevada later than we planned, so we grabbed some gas and our dinner, which we took with us. Off again, with all the excitement knowing our camp site was only on the other side of the mountain range on our east.

I kept complaining no one would be able to follow me by APRS, and my attempts at talking on HF this day were seriously curtailed with the high noise floor, and lack of stations responding. Of course, once back home I checked and found that there was some serious solar activity that day, and the K index was 7.

To reach our camping area, we had to drive south about 25 miles to cross over the pass to get to the east side. Then it was a few more miles to reach the Nevada highway that would take us up the east side of the Spring Creek Mountain range, and alongside the windmill farm. After about 15 miles, we passed the turn-off to where we were camping last year, becoming more excited as the turn-off for our planned location was now only 20 miles away.

Now I started talking, sharing my past recollections with my passengers. And for those of you who know me, I hate to forget the details. Over there. And over here. Suddenly, we reached our turn-off, and now I got to brag about how I drove my hyped up 1972 Pontiac over the mountains and down the other side, using this road. We (myself and my friend Dick) only had one problem on this part of our trip, when I stuck the front end of the car in a creek.

But being a Boy Scout earlier in my lifetime, I took out my ax and cut down a sapling, which I used as a pry bar to lift the front end of the car so we could get past those rocks blocking the front tires. The more I pried, the more the fan rubbed on its shrouding; so, we had to cut it away to clear the fan. After this, it was smooth sailing the rest of the drive, ending up in McGill, a small town just north of Ely.

After about 10 minutes of driving up this forest service road, we reached the Kalamazoo Creek campground. At least, that is what the sign said. There was a lone vault toilet, and 4 charcoal grills. It was overrun with weeds and shrubs, and there was no sign of any established fire rings. Because of the burn restrictions that the Forest Service had in place, we would only have a campfire in one of their established rings - no rock rings, no digging out a spot in the ground. And a campfire is one of the main reasons for camping, isn't it?

So, we made the decision to go back to Cleve Creek, where we camped last year. They have these campfire rings at all their established campsites. And for the 30 minutes we drive back down to the turn-off to Cleve Creek, we kept trying to decide on whether to go back to the exact spot we had last year, which we really loved, or to be nice to Amber and take up at one of those near the vault toilets, so she wouldn't have to walk a mile each way from camp. Two against one, even though I offered to Amber she can take the truck anytime she needs to. The decision was to camp in the lower campgrounds, and see if we might get one of the better sites that were meant to support tents (most were intended for an RV).

The sun was now behind the mountains, when we decided on a really nice spot.

Best part was there was also a vault toilet about 100 yards away. I lit my gas lantern, and we proceeded to set up camp. Nicholas and Amber chose the spot alongside the creek, which was actually a really nice spot looking over a nice pool where someone had used rocks to create. The other flattish spot was up by the truck, so I set up there. Then it went downhill fast.

I set up my tent, including my table and radio equipment inside it, and moved outside to put my antennas and mast together and get these operational. My first one was to put up the rotatable 80M dipole. I put the tripod together, laid out the mast sections I would need, ran the coax from this spot into the tent and connected it with my radio equipment. Since I had already installed the mount back home, all I had to do was connect my coax, screw in the antenna masts, loosen the adjustable metal tip that I would tune it with, and tune it. Where is that darned hex wrench? I know I put it with my radio equipment to load up. Well, no 80M antenna to use, as the nearest town was now only about 60 miles away.

But I should still be okay on my other bands, as I had brought my Alpha Antenna multi-band vertical which I have used so successfully for years now.

I removed the 80M antenna stuff, connected the coax to the Alpha Antenna, and proceeded to my radio to start using it. My first attempt to key the radio up set off my SWR light on my radio, which had me wondering what's happening. I hooked up my antenna analyzer, only to see that across the entire band my SWR was maxed out.

So, I began my field troubleshooting. Could it be that the coax had somehow gotten broken? Well, I had brought an extra just in case it might be needed, and I replaced the current coax with this. Same thing, SWR was pegged across the bands. It wasn't the coax. That leaves the antenna. I took my DVM and tested the antenna's coil base - it was open between the center pin and the antenna, which it shouldn't be. That means somehow the coil had become broken internally, which meant it was useless the rest of the trip.

The rest of the first night was spent sitting by the campfire, moaning to myself how I could let this happen. I brought extras of everything I thought could possibly go wrong. I never thought I would somehow forget my Allen wrenches, or my totally reliable Alpha Antenna would croak. To make it even worse, Nicholas was still not feeling well, and had gone to bed just after the camp was set up - this was not Nicholas; he is usually still up at the campfire long after I have gone into my tent to play on my radio.

The stars were exceptionally bright that evening, but this area is renowned for its dark skies and fantastic view of the Milky Way.

Our next morning, we all woke up to a cool, blue sky with a slight breeze, and the sun shining down on us. I started to get breakfast started, when Nicholas told me he wasn't hungry. I made some coffee, and even this he turned down. Something is still not right.

Nicholas turned on his StarLink system he brought, and proceeded to call around to find a doctor he could visit using Telemedicine. Later that afternoon, he reached a doctor, who after listening to his symptoms and our vitals (I had my blood pressure cuff and finger oxygen sensor with me), sent a prescription into the pharmacy in Ely for some anti-nausea medicine. We called the pharmacy to see what time they closed, and learned that they did have his prescription and it was in stock, but that they would be closing in about 30

minutes. We explained where we were at, and that we couldn't get there in 30 minutes, and asked if there was any alternative? The pharmacist told us when we got to the grocery store (yeah, it was located within the local grocery store), have the store manager call them and they would open up for us.

Earlier in the afternoon I tried using my HF radio in the truck, but the noise from the wind farm blocked other signals. Just as I was giving up, I was making plans to come back into the truck that evening, and after the wind farm shuts down, try my hand at HF once more. It then dawned on me that I could use the ATA-120a antenna on my truck with my radio in my tent. I was using a Yaesu FT-857D in the truck, and my radio in the tent was my Yaesu FT-897D - both of these radios are fully ATAS-120a compatible.

We drove into Ely that evening, and when we got to the grocery store, the pharmacy was still open. When we went to the window, the pharmacist said it was easier just staying open waiting on us, but that until just a few minutes ago, they had been swamped with customers. We got his medicine, and thought while we were in town, thought I would get an Allen wrench for my antennas. The hardware store was already closed when we arrived. So we grabbed some fast food, and headed back to camp.

When we got back to camp, it was pitch black out, as there was some cloud cover blocking the moon and stars. Nicholas and Amber decided to call it a night, so I thought I would hook up my tent's radio with the truck's HF antenna, and try my luck on HF.

I grabbed the extra coax I had, along with the original coax, connected to my FT-897D radio, and laid this coax out to the truck to connect to the ATAS-120a antenna. I dug into my Field Day radio box, looking for UHF F-F connectors, as I would need 2 of these to make this work. I had stuck in an extra, as I normally only carried one of these. After everything was connected, I turned on the radio equipment, set my radio to 7.185 MHz, and hit the tune button on the radio. I stepped out of the tent, and shining my flashlight on the antenna, it was raising like it should for using on 75 meters.

And I yelled out, "It's alive!"

Cheers, Mark Hetherington