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

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

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
K5FRC

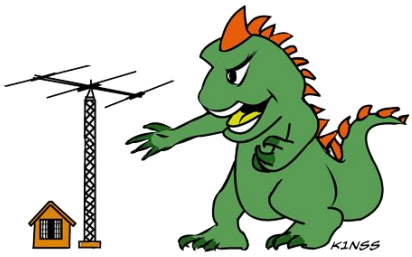
Volume 1 Issue 7- July 2024

July 2024 K5FRC TREASURER'S

Currently, the club has a balance of $3299.84 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 $24.00 from Single membership and $36.00 from a family membership.
The club has had 0 expenditures since last month's meeting.

73's, James
KI5DQ

FUN STUFF



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;
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

President's Report

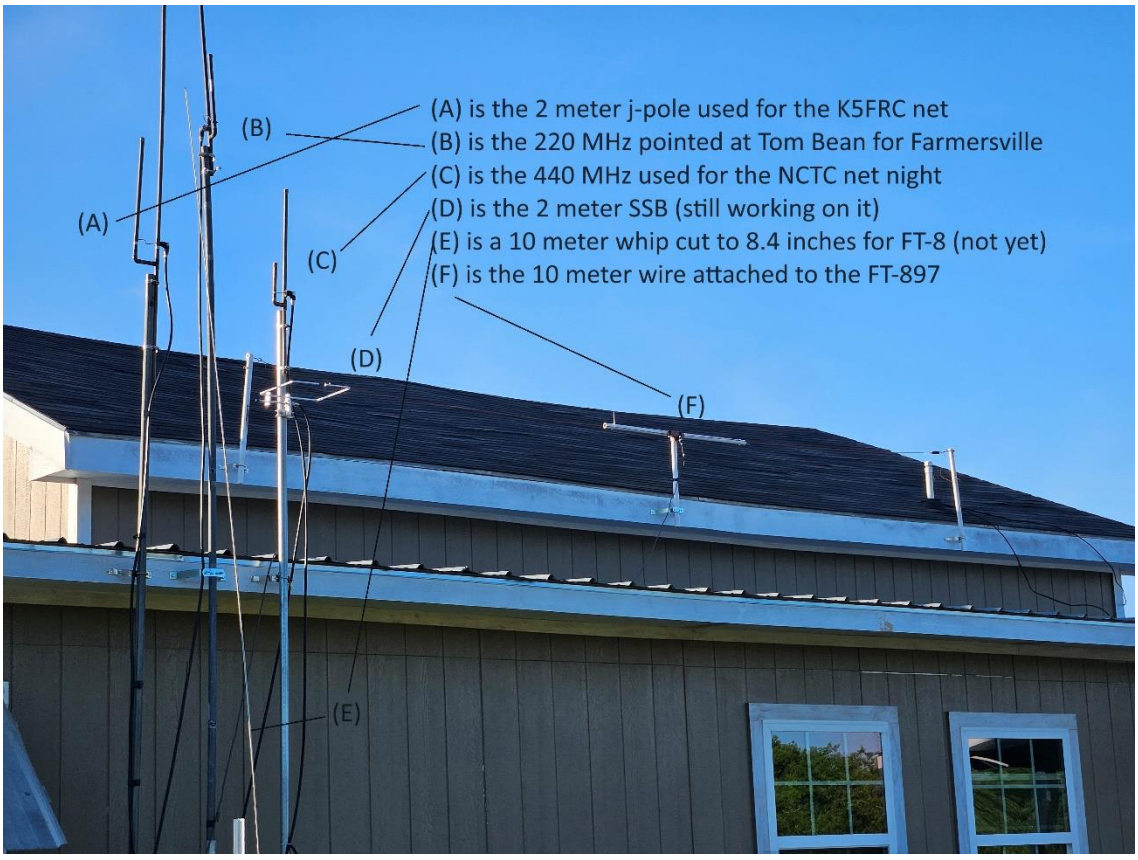
President's July Club Report

Well, the club's "Summer Field Day" has come and gone and what a weekend it was. Personally, I feel the contacts were far better than those made at the "Winter Field Day", and we now have a reigning "Contact Champion" in our very own "KK5SM", Miss Sharon. I think once the CQ either land heard her breaks, all attention was turned her way. I was very happy to have made the first contact in North Carolina, but my hearing got the best of me and I had to give it up.

I took several things away from that weekend, not all of which dealt with radio or antennas, but how the radio community is more of a family than just a group of folks playing with their toys. Even though the toys we played with were quite impressive and got added to the wish list, they weren't the main draw, it was the respect and sharing of ideas and experience that truly made the weekend. And it didn't hurt that the food was pretty good as well.

Now that the 4th of July has been celebrated and has given us a reminder of the "Freedom of Radio", there are several opportunities to grow through this knowledge.

On the technical side of things, I did take away, AGAIN, that antenna is EVRYTHING and used that to help me as I readied myself for the upcoming hip replacement and subsequent confinement. Prior to the surgery date I managed to set up a small array of antennas outside the window of my confinement area, most of which was done when the boss was still at work. Needless to say, this small array has allowed me to stay in contact and has been providing some lessons in "Antennaolgy", not sure if that is a word or not but it works for me.



As you can tell from the Legend, I have a few options to play with but I am still missing the iCom AH-710 "Folded Dipole" Antenna that will be used for all of my HF changes allowed by the FT-897.
To date, I have not been able to make any 2-meter SSB contacts, and the 10-meter world has been down as well, leaving FT-8 dead as well, unless I'm doing something wrong. But I am happy to say that the contacts on the 220 MHz, 440 MHz, and the 2-meter j-poles have been numerous and appreciated

and maybe one day when I grow up, I can have my own mini-NSA facility like KI5DQ. Until then, I will continue to study the world and attributes of the 10-meter air waves.

73 and Happy “Hamming”, from KI5VNL

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

JULY 2024 VP REPORT
SHARON MCEACHERN-KK5SM

Being able to operate a ham radio isn't just a skill for survivalists, preppers, or first responders. In a situation where usual communication systems fail, anyone can benefit from knowing how to use this important tool. A ham radio can help keep you safe and connected in our unpredictable world.

Understanding how to use these radios and their emergency frequencies is a practical skill that could make a significant difference when it matters most.

While natural disasters and end-of-world events are often cited as reasons to own a ham radio, there are other more common situations where a ham radio might just keep you safe: If you're hiking and misplace your cell phone, you can use a ham radio to communicate with your family and let them know you're ok.

- If your car battery dies and you're out of cell range, a ham radio can help you communicate and get help
- If you need to lay low and don't want to be tracked via cell phone, you can program a ham radio to pick up radio stations and weather stations so you stay in the loop. You can also communicate when needed.

Our club has done a tremendous job in aiding our community in Emergency Communications. We will continue to do so. However, while we know ham radio plays a vital role in emergency communications, IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS CLUB UNDERTAKE, OR BETTER YET, YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE LEAD AND INTRODUCE/INSTRUCT THE CLUB IN SOMETHING HAM RADIO RELATED?? IF SO, PLEASE LET THE OFFICERS KNOW!

As I think about the areas I struggle with most, I know from experience the best way to learn is to teach. So, I guess I will be teaching a class on soldering and connectors!

See you all soon!
73,
Sharon-KK5SM/VP

SECRETARY REPORT

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
Regular Meeting @ Bois D'Arc Creek Cowboy Church
June 15, 2024

President Keith Mumaw called the meeting to order, Bob Yakel led the invocation, Mike Jeter led the pledge.

President Keith Mumaw had nothing to add to his report for the newsletter though he appreciated the picture James Hunt sent from Lewisville of the truck full of those blue boxes.

Vice President Sharon McEachern reports that the article shared was an older one that she found as she has been perusing the history of the club and amateur radio.

Treasurer James Hunt at the Lewisville Ham Fest, and the report was given by President Keith Mumaw. Checking balance is at $3,239.84, Savings balance at $225.25, with expenditures of $149.16, $95.00, and $342.00. Motion to accept report from Sarah Richardson, second by Sharon McEachern, motion passed.

Secretary Sarah Richardson reports the only thing other than the newsletter is that publicity for Field Day and the EOC gathering is being done through the LEADER and North Texas e-News. If there are other means, please give her the contact information. Motion to accept from Mark Hetherington, second by Sharon McEachern, motion passed.

Trustee Dr. Mike Durbin wants to do a class on the maintenance/management of the repeater, for 2-3 people. If more people are interested, there can be a second class due to the space limitations at the tower sites. Grant possibility for radar to cover Fannin County. Grant would need to start at $5,000-$7,000 and that would cover just the radar, Marine radar weather and doppler does show debris in the clouds that would indicate tornado or hail. The perfect place for the radar location would be at the FC Sheriff Office since it is a central location.

Old Business

Ralf Borgardt worked on the blue trailer, fixing the trailer lights, adding latches and lock capabilities for the cabinet, as well as some lighting for setting up the trailer if that is necessary in the dark. He brought the trailer to show it off and will have it at Field Day for the antennas, etc.

Bob Yakel shared that on 29 May, he, DeeDee and Duncan Berry went to Ft. Worth for RACES training and to get ID cards, but in the future, such will be done in Sherman. EOC asked for help to assess roads and other damage from the recent storms. Jeff (?), Jennifer also did the damage assessment. Mark Hetherington shared that our county has been declared a disaster area, and the reports are needed to qualify for FEMA funds.

Keith Mumaw brought forth the possibility of a 'sidewalk sale' type of ham fest being something the club could consider as a fundraiser and an opportunity for those who have extra/excess equipment an opportunity to sell it.

Field Day – sides and desserts are needed, and a reminder that the mutual aid meeting is to be at 1400 on FD.

Ralf made a motion to adjourn, Robert Fleckinstein seconded, and the motion passed.

Trustees' report

de K5MJD

NOW MY USUAL FUN/INFO STUFF

"I AM COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL AND ALL MY CIRCUITS ARE OPERATING NORMALLY"

WHY a repeater?

The communications range for VHF and UHF FM simplex is usually limited to your local area (5-15 miles). If you live high on a mountain and use a high-gain directional antenna, you may be able to extend your range considerably. Unfortunately, most of us do not have the luxury of ideal VHF/UHF operating conditions. Often, we want to make contacts even though we live in a valley, are driving in a car or are using a low-power, hand-held transceiver.

Enter repeaters. A repeater receives a signal and re-transmits it, usually with higher power and from a better location, to provide a greater communications range. Often located atop a tall building or high mountain, VHF and UHF repeaters greatly extend the operating range of amateurs using mobile and hand-held transceivers. If a repeater serves an area, it's not necessary for everyone to live on a hilltop. You only have to be able to hear the repeater's transmitter and reach the repeater's receiver with your transmitted signal.

A repeater receives a signal on one frequency and simultaneously retransmits (repeats) it on another frequency. The frequency it receives on is called the input frequency, and the frequency it transmits on is called the output frequency.

To use a repeater, you must have a transceiver that can transmit on the repeater's input frequency and receive on the repeater's output frequency. The input and output frequencies are separated by a predetermined amount that is different for each band. This separation is called the offset.

Most transceivers designed for FM repeater operation are set up for the correct offset. They usually have a switch to change between simplex operation (transmit and receive on the same frequency) and duplex operation (transmit and receive on different frequencies). So, if you wanted to use a repeater you would switch your transceiver to the duplex mode and dial up 145.47 to listen to the repeater.

When you transmit, your rig will automatically switch to 144.87 MHz (0.6 MHz lower in frequency or 600Khz.), the repeater input frequency.

When you have the correct frequency dialed in, just key your microphone button to transmit through ("access") the repeater. Most repeaters are open -- that is, available for use by anyone in range. Some repeaters, however, have limited access. Their use requires the transmission of a continuous subaudible tone or a short "burst" of tones for access. These are called CTCSS (continuous tone-coded squelch system) or PL (Private Line PL is a Motorola trademark) tones. The reason for requiring access tones for "open" repeaters is to prevent interference from extraneous transmissions that might accidentally key the repeater. The tone required on our 145.47 repeater is 100Hz. This is the same for all of our repeaters including the 442.525 (+5 MHz.offset) and our 443.750 MHz. (+5 Mhz offset).

More repeaters are being put into service all the time. Repeater frequencies are selected through consultation with frequency coordinators who are individuals or groups, that recommend repeater frequencies based on potential interference and other factors. There are several ways to find the local repeater(s). Ask local amateurs or contact the nearest radio club. Each year, the ARRL publishes The ARRL Repeater Directory, a comprehensive listing of repeaters throughout the United States, Canada, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Besides finding out about local repeater activity, the Directory is handy for finding repeaters to use during vacations and business trips. Another handy tool for travelers is TravelPlus for Repeaters™ CD-ROM.

73s for now de K5MJD