



President-Mark Hetherington - KF5KUW Vice-President-James Hunt - KI5DQ

Secretary-Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF Treasurer-Sharon McEachern - KI5FHN

Trustee-Dr. Mike Durbin - K5MJD

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club K5FRC

Volume 3 – MARCH 2023

President's Report

Well, winter is gone, and Spring has sprung. At least that is what all the trees are telling me around my place. Even my Redbuds have bloomed. But will this be true, or will we have a late “winter” storm in the next couple of weeks?

We have had our share of stormy weather this year, with the latest bringing very high winds, hail, and rain. At my location I measured 61 MPH wind gust, with sustained winds over 50 MPH for about 10 minutes. During this same stormy day, I had set up a practice drill with Troy Hudson, our Fannin County Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), where we would have an amateur radio operator go to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), acting as our radio contact with the EOC. Additionally, I would have amateur operators ready to send out to designated volunteer fire departments to act as relays, radioing messages to and from the EOC.

For the first set of thunderstorms, where the county was placed under a severe thunderstorm warning by the National Weather Service (NWS), I opened a SkyWarn net where our mobile operators and our home-based operators were able to monitor weather and report conditions, especially information like hail size that the NWS wanted to know about. Sarah, KI5PZF, had a great picture showing hail as large as, and larger than, the quarter placed alongside. So, our practice drill seemed to be working as we had hoped. We continued the Skywarn net doing damage reports around the county, with reports of power lines down, trees and branches on the roadways, but nothing appearing life threatening. Then the “fun” began when the squall line moved through the county giving us those high wind gusts.

The County Sheriff's department lost their radio communications ability, and our practice suddenly became a real communications emergency. Our EOC amateur radio operator Sharon, KI5FHN, suddenly had to take the NCS reins when I lost power and realized my back-up battery I use was in the trunk of my car. It so happened that this power loss was also what apparently impacted the SO repeater, causing their communications issue. But we were already prepared for this, as we had several mobile operators that she could call upon that were scheduled to be available. Fuzzy, W5FZY, was one of these and became a major focal point of some communications. Initially scheduled as a back-up for Ladonia, he and his son who was riding along with him during all of this, was in the Leonard area doing some damage reporting when communications were needed with the Leonard Volunteer Fire Department.

That quickly escalated in his being located with the other Leonard based emergency services, police, sheriff's department, and the local volunteer fire department, where he remained until the SO regained its radio communications later that night.

Our practice ended up being a real-time event, and many key county elected officials got a first-hand experience of what amateur radio could do in those conditions. Way to go everyone!

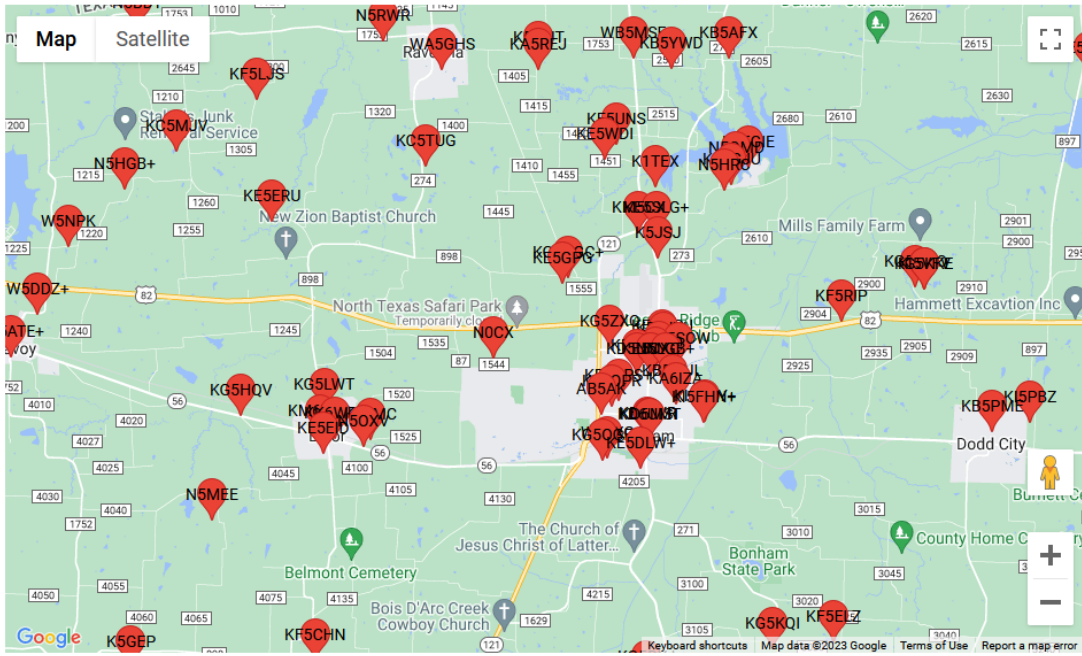
Speaking of storms, please keep the folks out west in your prayers, as they seem to be experiencing Texas level rains, and it's causing them a bunch of problems. An AP news story that I was reading was talking about flooded strawberry fields, where the residents were too poor to afford to find shelter elsewhere, and struggling to find food. A major levee, built back in the late 1940's for flood control, had been breached in two locations; the first cut a channel 400 feet wide, and the other breach was 100 feet wide. More than 8,500 people were forced to evacuate. The story also mentions, "the state has been battered by 10 previous atmospheric rivers, long plumes of moisture from the Pacific Ocean, as well as powerful storms fueled by arctic air that produced blizzard conditions".

As for amateur radio, our HF bands are really getting better almost every day. During the recent ARRL International DX contest, I saw my radio's spectrum scope full of stations all across each band, all competing to see which states could reach what countries, and those countries were competing to see what states and Canadian provinces they could reach. For two days, these bands were packed with amateurs around the states and around the world making contacts and having fun.

I have been playing around with FT-8 a lot myself, and I have been able to make many contacts every day I am on. I really like 10M, as this is a band that our Technician class amateurs are able to experience, and I find it a great band to work long distance stations on. I have QSO's logged with Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Angola, South Africa, and many European countries. A few that stood out were a couple of Ukrainian stations, and a station in the Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa.

Next month's meeting will be held at Bonham State Park, where we will also be participating as volunteers with their 100-year anniversary event. We will have a table to share information about us and amateur radio, and we will also have an operating radio there making contacts and showing people how easy and fun it can be. And, because we are going to be volunteers at this event, daily park fees will be waived.

I have talked before about the number of amateur radio operators we have here in Fannin County, and I found a website that actually shows it graphically on a map. Take a look at the image below, and if you look really closely (it is much more clearly seen on a computer screen), every one of those markers has the callsign of the amateur located at that address. On the website, if you select (click on) one of these markers, a popup window shows the name and address for that amateur. And don't forget, a bunch of these markers contain more than one amateur at that address.



<https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map/g/EM13vo>

TREASURES REPORT
Treasurer's Report

MARCH 2023 K5FRC
TREASURER'S
REPORT

Currently, the club has a balance of \$4,441.42 in its checking account and a balance of \$223.98 in its savings account. Since our last club meeting, the club has had the following deposits and expenditures:

Deposits of \$192 on 2-21-23 and \$36 on 3-1-23 for club dues. One expenditure of \$87.26 for reimbursement supplies for field day.

Reminder: If you need to renew your ARRL membership, you can do so through the club and the club will receive a commission from ARRL. I will have the forms at our next meeting.

A current roster will be sent out prior to our next meeting.

73's,
Sharon
KI5FHN

VICE PRESIDENT CORNER

12March2023
James Hunt - KI5DQ
Vice-President and Safety Officer

Spring Time safety tips and awareness.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has begun the NWS Fort Worth SKYWARN Program.

All is welcome – the beginner to the veteran. New material is presented yearly.

The training is available in-person and virtual.

2023 SKYWARN Schedule

<https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>

Only one virtual class remains, 21March2023 @ 19:00cst

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8925918285887172697>

The K5FRC 145.470- and 442.525+ repeaters have SKYWARN nets during inclement weather events. They have direct link to the NWS.

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday morning 12March2023, most of the United States sprang forward one hour on their time zone.

Now is a good time to replace smoke / CO2 alarm batteries.

On the Air Activities

The 10 meter band continues to be excellent opportunities for the technician class, 28.300 to 28.500.

The solar flux index is your propagation gateway:

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/predicted-sunspot-number-and-radio-flux>

TECHNICIAN
COURSE INFO
Coming soon

K5FRC

REPEATERS

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

ECHOLINK 143903; WIRES 21151; 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' 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

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
Minutes – 18 February 2023

Newsletter – Secretary Sarah KI5PZF

I hope everyone is staying safe with our wonderful springlike weather. I am excited for the opportunities to learn, and maybe be a better contributor to the club, county, and “ham world” in general.

Opportunities enjoyed since our last meeting in February include the Skywarn class I participated in with the NWS in Delta County. I had the pleasure of Chantel and Zak going with me to attend and bounce ideas off of when we were returning. They put it to use with me on the evening weather event of 2 March. (Yes, Zak chuckled at my forgetting I was ‘on air’ when the hail started) Working with James H., Mark H., Mike L., and Christian M to take the antennas and tower donated to the club by SK Danny Loyd was an interesting experience. I learned a little bit more about antennas.

The Technician class Mark H is doing appears to be going well. Mark G of the class said after listening to the weather from 2 March that “if he wasn’t hooked before, he is now.” Class participation seems to be going well when I lurk on the session. For the General session, James H might want to hand me a “Dunce” hat part of the time. I appreciate his patience.

I just want to say that it is awesome that this club lets me do something I wanted to do when I was a kid – be a Ham operator – and hang with such cool folks. Blessed beyond measure, I do declare!
73, and see you at our regular meeting 18 March 2023

Secretary-Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF

Trustees' report
Simple report All systems are up and operational
NOW FOR TRUSTEE INFO

[What are the duties of the club trustee?-](#)

Think of the club station license trustee as the “chief control operator” for the club station license. It is the duty of the trustee to act in the best interests of the club; after all, the station license belongs to the club, not to the trustee individually. The club station license trustee must designate control operators to ensure that the station is operated as the club wants it to be. A club station control operator is designated by the club license trustee and must be someone who is trusted and will follow all FCC rules at all times.

[What do FCC rules say about station license responsibilities?-](#)

Part 97 says: §97.103 Station licensee responsibilities. The station licensee is responsible for the proper operation of the station in accordance with the FCC Rules. When the control operator is a different amateur operator than the station licensee, both persons are equally responsible for proper operation of the station. The station licensee must designate the station control operator. The FCC will presume that the station licensee is also the control operator, unless documentation to the contrary is in the station records. The station licensee must make the station and the station records available for inspection upon request by an FCC representative. When deemed necessary by an EIC to assure compliance with FCC Rules, the station licensee must maintain a record of station operations containing such items of information as the EIC may require in accord with §0.314(x) of the FCC Rules. What does the FCC say about control operator duties? Part 97 says: §97.105 Control operator duties. The control operator must ensure the immediate proper operation of the station, regardless of the type of control. A station may only be operated in the manner and to the extent permitted by the privileges authorized for the class of operator license held by the control operator.

73 de K5MJD