



President-Mark Hetherington - KF5KUW Vice-President-James Hunt - KI5DQ Secretary-Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF

Treasurer-Sharon McEachern – KK5SM Trustee- Dr.Mike Durbin - K5MJD

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club K5FRC

Volume 1 Issue 12 - December 2023

FUN STUFF

DECEMBER 2023 K5FRC TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently, the club has a balance of \$3,962.43 in its checking account and a balance of \$224.14 in its savings account. Since our last club meeting, the club has had the following deposits:

Deposit of \$28 for Ralf renewing his membership and help me welcome our newest member Shawn Dobbels.

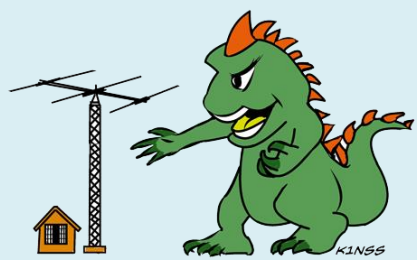
The club will renew its liability insurance and equipment insurance later this month.

Our t-shirt order has been placed with Sugarplum Stitching in Sherman.

Also, I will send out the current roster prior to our next meeting.

Reminder: It is almost time for 2024 club dues.

73,
Sharon
KK5SM



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 Report
December 2023

Christmas is just around the corner; the tree is decorated and lit up; presents are starting to gather underneath, and the cats are loving tearing into the wrapping paper and playing with the bows on top... Anticipation is starting to build, especially as I know one of the gifts is from my wife, although I was the one who picked it out, and ordered it when Yaesu put a great rebate on this mobile radio.

But let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas. We are celebrating the birth of our savior, learning from all his lessons, and for all his sacrifices for us.

A tradition that our family has practiced all our marriage has been to give toys anonymously to kids who are less fortunate. Throughout the year, we help families who have run into hard times, who are experiencing grief or dealing with serious medical issues, or who just need someone to care and listen. My wife has been preparing a meal a week for one family who is struggling, and bakes a couple cakes every so often to take and give out to others. Service to others is what Christ wants in all of us, to help our brothers and sisters in times of need.

In the spirit of Christmas, I would ask each one of you to think about your neighbors, your friends, and those families that could use a little something, and help be that something for them. And throughout the year to come, let's continue our service to our communities and those around us.

I have thoroughly enjoyed these past couple of years as your club president, and very proud of all that we have accomplished. As I pass the proverbial gavel to the next president, I am hopeful that our club continues to help out in times of need (especially during bad weather), help educate our club members to grow their knowledge, skills, and enjoyment of what radio can be and do.

For those of you who have not experienced HF radio, and all the wonderful places around this continent as well as around the world, I would encourage you to try it out. We are reaching the peak of the sunspot cycle, where conditions are the most favorable for talking all over the world. Take advantage of this next year to experience HF and all its wonders.

If you are licensed as a Technician, find yourself an Elmer, someone who is willing and able to share their knowledge and advice with you. Perhaps they can let share using their HF radio, and help you to experience many of the methods of communications available. FT-8 has become very popular, especially with those people who are reluctant speaking with someone you know nothing about, as it is all digital (like emails on your computer). Don't forget we also have a club radio that is available to be checked out for a short time, allowing you to give HF a try at your own location.

Winter Field Day, which is the 4th Saturday and Sunday in January, is another great chance to sit down and try your hand and voice on the radio. Our club has many opportunities for you to experience HF, including our Radio In The Park, Parks On The Air (POTA), the annual summer Field Day (the 4th Saturday and Sunday of June), and even our special events like Marine Mobile on Lake Texoma. Give it a try, don't be shy...

Thank you for allowing me to help lead you and our club. I look forward to a new year, the fun we can have, and the service we can share.

SECRETARY REPORT

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
Regular Meeting – 18 November 2023
First Presbyterian Church Gazebo

President Mark Hetherington (KF5KUW) called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Keith Mumaw (KI5VNL) led the invocation. Mark reminded members that nominations for the 2024 slate of club officers need to be made to VP James Hunt (KI5DQ). Our next meeting will be at the Windom Feed Sack beginning at 1100. Officers for 2024 will be one at that time. Please show up. When the club has special events or locations for the meeting, please show up. The “Go-Bag/Box” event at Coffee Mill Lake did not have a quorum of members. Mark would like to see the club be involved in the planning of the Autumn In Bonham Bike Rally. The event (AIB) is set for October 5, 2024, which is the first Saturday of the month. There were approximately 160 riders preregistered, and the day of the race something like 240 riders showed up. Also, we can be involved with other counties who hold bike rallies to provide support. Red River Valley ARC does the communications & SAG for the “Tour de Paris” rally in July, and the Sabine Valley ARC in Greenville provides support for the rally in Hunt Co. James H. remarked that it is an opportunity to gain experience and practice. Also remember that we had severe weather last year going into to December, and we have the National Weather Service listening when we do Skywarn. We need to practice being net control, to be ready. Duncan Berry (KG5NDO) and Keith Mumaw (KI5VNL) have RACES and Skywarn training done. Mark would like to see more communication with surrounding counties for the weather portion – if Grayson sees weather headed into Fannin County to give an alert, and Fannin County give an alert to Lamar County as an example.

Vice President James Hunt (KI5DQ) remarked that the bands are open, he would like to see more real Park events. The officer nominations need to be submitted to him, and he will be calling nominees for the election at the December meeting.

Treasurer Sharon McEachern (KK5SM) reported two expenses for a total of \$567 and receipt of \$5 from ARRL for a renewal. Harry Hillman came in the mail, but we are not certain because it is an Alaska address. The only thing left on the calendar for the club is renewal of our liability insurance and our equipment insurance to Risk Strategies. Fortunately, we are on the correct insurance Dues renewals are coming up in January, with the cost being \$24 for individual, \$36 for a family, and lifetime for \$375. T-shirt order deadline is coming up.

Secretary Sarah Richardson (KI5PZF) reports not enough members at the October meeting at Coffee Mill Campground. We had decided that this would be an annual event, so as club members we should be aware of the special locations for our regular meetings. If you wish me to continue as secretary, I will try to publicize the monthly meetings with the North Texas e-News and the Leader in advance of the date. I do plan to run away to Maine again next summer to be doing grandma activities with the boys there. As far as establishing working relationships with the neighboring counties, I am game. I had the pleasure of visiting the Red River Valley ARC to thank them again for helping us. Our club is friendly, and I hope to keep that up.

Mark filled in for Trustee Dr. Mike Durbin (K5MJD), as he is with his daughter in ICU in Garland. Hope she is released from the hospital before Thanksgiving. Dr. Mike has been working on the repeaters and believes that the issues with NCTC have been corrected.

Roy Riales (KE5WDG), offered thanks to the club for doing the hotdogs again for the Spirit of Giving. The club has been doing that for over six years. He mentioned it is a real benefit to people who doing that that much. The First Presbyterian Church does appreciate the help.

Meeting adjourned and the grill was fired up for the cooking of the hotdogs. A fun time was had by all.

Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

10December2023

James Hunt - KI5DQ

Vice-President and Safety Officer

The count-down to the 12 days of Christmas is fast approaching.

While nearly all of us can't muster the folklore, but can smile.

Some numbers, it comes with 364 items, with a cost of \$46.7k.

Keeping our families safe during cooler months, a few of many suggestions:

- Drive Safely – during winter conditions, avoid using the cruise control, increase the following distance, accelerate / decelerate slowly.
- Car/truck preparation – maintain proper tire pressure, keep gas tank full, evaluate the freeze point of all fluids, keep non-perishable snacks and water, blankets.
- Home Preparation – have a licensed professional check your furnace/heating systems, check smoke detector / carbon monoxide detectors.

A few things to practice with your live Christmas tree:

- Just prior bringing it indoors, thump it a few times, then cut off ~3" of the stump.
- Water your tree daily.
- Only use UL approved Christmas tree lights, connected properly.
- Always inspect all lights and other powered decorations, if any damage – disposal.
- The Christmas tree should be located away from direct sunlight and any heat source.
- Keep any open flame (candles) away from the Christmas tree.
- Keep all pets away. Yes, cats love climbing into Christmas trees.

A Go Kit is another tool within your toolbox, emergency communications. Solar power!

Propagation:

The HF bands have been in wonderful conditions of late. Technicians can use 10 meters, which has awesome opportunities domestic and DX. The technician frequencies are 28.000 – 28.500mhz.

Term:

It has been a wonderful experience as the K5FRC Vice-President past 24 months, have maxed out allowable time by the club bylaws.

Will be seeking another position within the K5FRC club during the Christmas party elections.

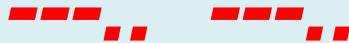
Thanks n 73,
James Hunt
K5FRC Vice-President

Trustees' report

New weather alert radio was installed on 145.47 repeater.
It is hard to test this so listen up on weather days and Wednesday when they do their weekly testing.

NOW MY USUAL FUN/INFO STUFF

Merry Christmas to all



'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Technicians,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.

It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh,
With an eight element beam,
And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean,
So I thought for a moment
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams,
On a mission this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late
QSLs, for a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth
Till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before –
Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.

He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That wouldn't compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
"A new rig?" I thought!
"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?
An Elecraft, TEN-TEC
Or Flex, could it be!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
It might be QRP!)
Yes! The Ultimate station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those weekends
I worked Public Service?
He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.
I should have been happy.
It was *my* call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost a month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile up was big.
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.

It was copied all over.

It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed

What an old ham expects:

"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."