



President-Mark Hetherington - KF5KUW

Vice-President-James Hunt - KI5DQ

Secretary-Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF

Treasurer-Sharon McEachern – KK5SM

Trustee- Dr.Mike Durbin - K5MJJ

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club K5FRC

Volume 1 Issue 11 - November 2023

FUN STUFF

NOVEMBER 2023 K5FRC TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently, the club has a balance of \$3,934.43 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 and expenditures:

Deposit of \$5 commission from ARRL for Sarah renewing her membership through the club.
Deposit of \$24 from Harry Hillman (KL7REV) for 2024 club dues.
Welcome Harry from Alaska!!

Expenditure of \$205 for TYT TH-9800 Quad Band Radio.
Expenditure of \$362 for Repeater Controller.

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

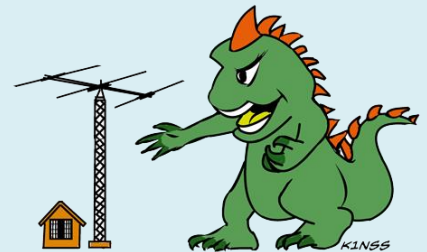
Reminder: It is almost time for 2024 club dues.

73's,
Sharon
KK5SM

What is fun about ham radio? One of the big reasons why so many people love ham radio is because **the ham radio service is the most powerful and longest range radio service available to the general public**, once you get a license. Ham radio operators can use up to 1,500 watts of power on some frequency bands.

What are ham radio users called?

Amateur radio operators are also known as radio amateurs or hams. The term "ham" as a nickname for amateur radio operators originated in a pejorative usage (like "ham actor") by operators in commercial and professional radio communities, and dates to wired telegraphy.



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
November 2023

I have started, stopped, and then deleted what I had come up with, as nothing was feeling like what I wanted to say this month. So, here goes another attempt (unsure its number...) at writing this report.

So much has happened this year. Some good, some not so good, and others just heartbreaking. Our club has continued to grow, and our numbers are stronger than they have been in quite a number of years. We have had several successful classes for folks wanting their license, or wanting a higher-class license. I thoroughly enjoy teaching the Technician course to aspiring potential amateur operators. And then my heart-break. Some within our club are now Silent Key.

So when I look back upon all the good times we have had together this year, I am left feeling satisfied that I did my best to help guide you, and sometimes trying to motivate you, but in the end we have a fantastic club, a great group of people, truly one I consider is part of my family.

Many of us are willing to donate our time and energy helping one another. Some of us seem like they are always donating every day it seems like, but I won't mention K5MJD, but would rather recognize all he does for our club, for our members, and for so many others, too. But like most folks that are too proud to admit it, we won't ask for someone else's help, even though it could be the difference between waiting another year to get it completed, or admiring when you have it done so you can utilize and appreciate it.

But when we come together to help another out, I must not forget to point out how much our involvement with the Spirit of Giving when we cook and serve hotdogs to those attending, means so much often to those who are not able to express their thanks and appreciation. It doesn't seem like much, cooking up some hotdogs, stuffing it into a bun, and then wrapping it up to hand to those eagerly waiting their turn. Some years it is bitterly cold, yet we are still out there with frozen smiles on our faces serving them warm to these guests. And in other years, the weather just seems ideal for this event, and all are comfortably stuffed in the end.

In closing, I would also like to ask that if you would like to run for a club office, please be sure that you are willing to accept the responsibilities and sometimes extra demands the office may also have, as we are all counting on you. Leadership doesn't have to be hard, painful, or even raise your anxiety level. Make your role fun, education, and most of all inspirational to others.

I am often looking around at other clubs around us, as well as some I hear about in other states, to try and learn new ideas, and see what others are doing. One of the best examples of having fun was in reading and listening to Secretary minute and reports that had me in stitches laughing so hard. One club's Secretary wrote the minutes like they were a sports reporter, and they described what was being discussed like plays and fouls in a ball game. Another wrote like they were living on the prairie about 150 years ago, and everything was always new and intriguing. One club I believe that was in Florida actually made their minutes into a crossword puzzle type of reading. There were squares that were placed into sentences instead of the actual words used, and it was up to the reader to fill in the boxes with the right answers.

So, let's keep this club's spirits high, the smiles on our faces, and let's have fun with amateur radio. And, if necessary, we will put on our coats and heavy clothing, and put our radios into good use watching out for our neighbors and friends.

And let's invite everyone up to the table for a blessed Thanksgiving dinner. Would you be kind enough to pass the stuffing?

SECRETARY REPORT

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
Minutes Regular Meeting for October 21, 2023
Coffee Mill Lake Campground

At 0924, President Mark Hetherington (KE5KUW), called the meeting to order. There were not enough members present to have a quorum, so no official business done. We had two guests present: Randy Holland (N5DDS) of the Red River ARC, and Allen Shutt (KE5VOH) from Greenville.

Mark discussed our upcoming meeting for November – Spirit of Giving Day at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Bonham. We will meet before the event and do the hotdogs and fixings again this year. Our December meeting will be at the Windom Feed Sack at 1100, with a cost of the meal being \$12 for seniors and \$13 for regular. The room is reserved for us. Officer elections will be held for the 2024 year at that time. Vice President James Hunt (KI5DQ) is leading that activity for officer nominations.

We also need to go back to TMC-Bonham to get their medical network properly working. The hospital staff has indicated sufficient feedline for the antenna. Mark asked for volunteers for Monday, October 23, 2023, to meet him at 0800 at the hospital.

Autumn In Bonham – there were 243 cyclists for that event, nearly double the number of cyclists expected by the Bonham Chamber of Commerce. There were no injuries, only five riders needed the SAG help. APRS aided greatly in location. We learned better signage is needed, and to keep up with the number of cyclists at each rest stop. TxDOT can provide signage if asked at the state level. Mark asked for a formal committee for the event next year.

Net control on Tuesday evenings, RACES please step up – it is the practice time outside of the emergency operations. Logging software uses FCC – W5KWK for the logging check-ins. APRS is being added (aprs.fi website to follow operators). We also need VEs, and that everyone who is an Extra can be a VE to administer tests for licensing. We also need help installing/removing antennas at times. SAR training is ongoing to be SARTECH certified. If interested, contact Mark for more information.

VP James Hunt (KI5DQ) shared the overnight SAR training event of Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. Topics were land navigation (LandNav) under realistic conditions. Upcoming officer elections in December requires nominations from the members of the club. Both Mark and he have reached the limit per the by-laws.

Treasurer Sharon McEachern (KK5SM) remarked that there had been an expenditure, but it will roll to next meeting. The next big expenditure will be the insurance for the equipment. Reminder dues are for January to December each year.

Secretary Sarah Richardson (KI5PZF) advised members to read the newsletter for the minutes, and if changes are needed, please let her know. Sarah is also willing to serve as Secretary for the 2024 year, if nominated and elected.

Trustee Report was given by Mark as Dr. Mike Durbin (K5MJD) is enjoying grandson home on leave. Dr. Mike had adjusted the feed, and IRLP/Echolink sound the same. The antenna is the problem at the Ivanhoe repeater – we hope it is a loose connection. NCTC audio link for Sulphur Springs is down right now, so we are not connected to the NCTC right now, but it will work locally.

Mark relayed that he has been asked about the cook-off for Winter Field Day, which will be at Lake Bonham Pavilion at Lake Bonham again. We had voted for this to be an annual event.

Mike Lindsey (KD5UNY) motioned to adjourn, James Yost (KA8FRK) and Sharon (KK5SM) tied in seconding the motion.

Demonstration of "GO BAG/BOX" for portable operations from James (KI5DQ), Jim Thomas (N5OMD) with his multi wave octo-antenna were shown. The weekend of the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) was active, and Jim and Sharon both have contacts. Presentation by Mr. Allen Shutt (KE5VOH) of Greenville, Hunt Co. of the used boxes from his company for those purposes. The containers are tough, hard cases with retractable handles and wheels. The cases are from robotics teams returning for upgrades. Mr. Shutt asked his company if he can give them away for repurposing and the company agreed to let him do this. He brought several containers with him. Sphero is involved in the STEM aspect of education.

Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

16November2023
James Hunt - KI5DQ
Vice-President and Safety Officer

Thanksgiving is next week, and spending time with loved ones and indulging in delicious feasts is on most people's minds. But—amidst the excitement and festivities—it's crucial to prioritize safety.

We all wish for a safe enjoyable and accident-free holiday. Listed below are a few tips and facts approaching next week.

Kitchen safety tips for Thanksgiving

Prevent cooking fires: Kitchen fires are the number one cause of house fires, and Thanksgiving is the number one day for cooking fires. Make sure all of your smoke alarms are working properly, and limit action in the kitchen (if you can!). Distraction can lead to burning food on the stove, which can lead to a fire. Stay focused, and save the wine for the dinner table.

Watch out for cooking injuries: Burns and cuts are common Thanksgiving injuries. Have all the tools you need to stay safe in the kitchen: hot pads and mitts, a fire extinguisher, properly sharpened knives (dull knives are more risky than sharp ones), and appropriate clothing. Wear long sleeves to protect from splattering oil, keep knives and other sharp objects out of reach of children, and always slice away from your fingers and palm.

Practice food safety: No one wants to give their Thanksgiving guests food poisoning. Thaw your turkey in the fridge in its original packaging and use dedicated kitchen tools for handling and preparing the turkey (to avoid cross-contamination). Wash all cutting boards, knives, and other utensils that touched the raw turkey in hot, soapy water—and wash your hands before, during, and after meal prep. Keep produce and other food items separate from the turkey during cooking and refrigerate leftovers promptly (within 2 hours at most!).

Fire prevention begins with everyone.

Being prepared (having an action plan) is extremely important.

In event of an oven fire – keep the door closed, turn off the electricity and gas. Call 911.

In event of a stovetop fire – the best fix is a **Fire Blanket**.

Always have at least one fire extinguisher. Before you use it, invert the cylinder 3 or 4 times, it will loosen up the dry powder within. Pull the safety pin and aim towards the base of the fire, discharge the entire cylinder. If the fire is too big, evacuate and call 911.

Keep pets away from the feast: Keep your pet healthy – but Thanksgiving provides even more opportunities for him to look adorable while eyeing all the food. Turkey bones, onions, garlic, grapes, raisins, and chocolate are just some of the hazards in the holiday feast that can be fatal to dogs. And even if you want to share the pumpkin pie (that's what they get for an upset tummy, right?), don't. The added sweets and cream can mess up their system, and no one wants intestinal troubles on the holiday.

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

No doubt you understand the role of a tone, once known as a *PL* tone, to communicate through a repeater. In fact, most repeaters require them, to prevent possibly interfering with another nearby repeater. To use those repeaters, your radio must transmit a sub-audible tone, which is sent along with your voice. The repeater detects the presence of the tone, and activates the repeat function. To make your radio do that, you locate the *transmit* tone selection in your menu or programming software, and

set it to the appropriate tone frequency. All Fannin county repeaters use 100Hz.

But you might also be aware of a **receive** tone setting in your radio, and have wondered what that is, and whether it's important to you. In short, it is *indeed* important to you, but mostly important to *avoid*. That's because when your radio is set to listen for a receive tone, ***you won't hear anything that does not send you that tone.***

A receive tone is sent by a station to you, to allow you to hear only the station that's sending the receive tone, whether that's a repeater or a simplex station. However, if the other station doesn't transmit a tone, you won't hear anything from it, if your radio's receive tone is set. In fact, you might find that most repeaters do *not* transmit a receive tone, and again, if your radio expects a receive tone, you won't likely hear much from them.

So, unless you're certain that the other station transmits a receive tone, your radio should always default to ***not*** expect a receive tone.

IF YOU HEAR AN EMERGENCY CALL

As a HAM radio operator you know that your community service is very needed when there's an incident or emergency.

First, when you hear a request for assistance, you might not recognize it as a call for help. That's because you're listening for a smooth, trained voice who's used to talking on ham radio. The person on the other end might actually sound frantic, high-pitched, and hyperventilated. It'll take everything you've got to remain calm, even if the other person isn't.

Second, the other person might not have ever heard of a call sign, let alone have a license. It'll be up to you to ask the other person a few questions, to help keep him focused, to keep him talking to you as long as you could, until help arrives, if it does. Ask what his or her name is, call him by his name every chance you get. A person tends to feel more calm, assured, and like you're really listening, when you repeat his or her name often.

Third, find out about his environment, whether he's in a safe place. Is he alone, or are there others nearby? Are they alright? How old is he or she? If it's a child, where are the parents? Are there power lines down near him? Does he smell gas? Is there broken glass on the floor near him? Is there water on the floor or spraying in the air? Are the lights on?

Finding out as much information as you can will help in three ways: it'll provide the caretakers (like police or fire or parents) more info to assess, it'll help calm the other person, and surprisingly, it'll help calm you as well. There's often a lot of talk about protecting privacy, but when a child's life is in danger, the child's privacy is probably not the first priority.