

The Ground Wire

August

Volume 2001, Issue 8

Tidbits From Todd



KB5TMD - Todd

Another month has passed us by and we are now into August. I hope everyone is having a nice summer. This summer has been a nice one for me. The Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio club had an excellent Field Day in June and our attendance at the last club meeting was very high. I like what I am seeing at the meetings. We have great fellowship and fun programs. In August, we usually want the weather to cool off and this gets me thinking about HarvestFest., which is held in October with the city of Duncanville. We have provided communications for this event for several years. I will provide more information on this event, as it becomes available.

I would like to thank Paul Dryer and Adam Adkins as well as everyone

else who is involved in starting the CW class this month. Even though the code requirements for FCC license exams have changed, I am still pleased to see the number of people who are enthused with this mode of communication. There are so many different ways to enjoy this hobby. There is something for everyone in Amateur Radio. I am always looking for new and different ideas for this amateur radio club. If anyone has any ideas to try something new or a bit different, please feel free to drop by the club board meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month. I am sure that the CW code class is just one idea of many that are in the minds of our members.

Speaking of classes, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Duncanville is starting an amateur radio theory and code class on Saturday, August 11th. If you are interested in this

class, please see or e-mail Rick Ellis (KJ5UY) for more information on this. I am happy to see this as I have always wished that amateur radio classes were more widely available to the general public. I also believe that there may be many people who are interested in ham radio but do not know how to obtain information on getting a license. I am sure that the wide availability of the Internet in homes today can help expose people to the hobby. Stores like Radio Shack and Fry's Electronics (to a lesser extent) provide amateur radio gear and literature as well.

I have heard the question asked on our repeaters from time to time as to why there are so few retailers selling amateur radio equipment. My opinion on this is that there is so little markup in amateur radio gear that stores cannot survive by sell-

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NET NCS SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

AUGUST

06-KC5MQC

13-W5WB

20-KJ5UY

27-KB5TMD

SEPTEMBER

03-LABOR DAY

NO NET

10-W5WB

17-KD5IVM

24-KC5MQC

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ing ham radios and shortwave radios alone. Tucker Electronics in Garland was a prime example of this. I sure miss that place. I remember when the store used to be open until 9 pm on Thursday nights. My friend Richard Smith (KC5DED) and I used to go up there after work on Thursday nights and look at some of the gear. I wonder whatever happened to all of those old radios that were in the museum there. When Fry's Electronics first came to town 4 years ago, I was again somewhat enthused until I saw the prices of the equipment and the condition of the store in Arlington. What a dungeon that place is! I was hoping that Ham Radio Outlet would open a branch here in Dallas when they bought the remaining Tucker Electronics inventory, but instead, they just sold it all at their other branch locations.

In my article last month, I somewhat bashed my new mobile rig. My thoughts on the radio have not changed, but I thought it was funny when Jessica and I were in New Orleans one day and the people down there were calling me "The Tin Man from Texas". I still have not gotten around to swapping the microphone with my other Yaesu radio. The microphone on the FT-2500M may work, but it has fewer functions. I particularly like the direct frequency entry from the microphone on the new Dual-Bander. I may be sending the radio back

to Yaseu before the warranty expires.

Speaking of new radios, check out the new Kenwood HT on the back cover of your August issue of QST. I want it. I don't need it, I just want it. My Alinco DJ-V5 is a little sweetheart and I really have no need for another HT. Perhaps Santa Claus will bring me one for Christmas. Christmas will be here before we know it, so everyone needs to begin dropping hints to their spouses as to what they want.

I have again become extremely long winded this month so I will close now and return again next month.

73,

Todd-KB5TMD

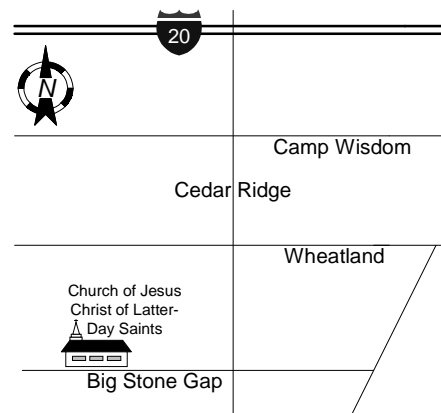
Ham Radio Classes

The Dallas Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will be conducting a 3-part Technician Class license preparation seminar starting in August:

- Aug 11th – 9 to 11 am
 - Aug 25th – 9 to 11 am
 - Sept 8th – 1 to 3 pm
- (VE session to follow immediately afterwards)

The classes will consist of a review of the Gordon West/WB6NOA Technician Class License Study Manual (available at Radio Shack or W5YI) and will include demonstrations of equipment and operating techniques. These classes will be held at the church facility at 1019 Big Stone Gap in Duncanville, Texas (see map) and are open to anyone interested in obtaining an amateur radio license. A Volunteer Examiner testing session will be conducted immediately following the final class to allow those present to immediately test for their Technician Class license.

For more information, please contact Rick Ellis/KJ5UY at 972-617-5510 or e-mail at rhekj5uy@flash.net.



SWDCARC INFO

Board Meeting

First Tuesday 6:30 PM

Pizza Inn Duncanville

Membership Meeting

Third Tuesday 6:30 PM

Judy's #2 Duncanville

HAMS HIGH ON FIELD DAY IN NEW MEXICO

A couple of old SWDCARcers, Tim Raven, KI5SQ, and past president Larry Dingmore, KI5UD conducted field day activities from Greenie Peak, New Mexico. The summit of the mountain, located in northern New Mexico near the town of Red River, is 11,200 feet above sea level, where the temperatures ranged from the 60s during the day to the high teens at night. Using a Yaesu FT-100, and an MFJ vertical, powered by solar panels, and solar charged batteries, we were able to work all parts of the country on QRP, making several hundred contacts on 10 and 15 meters. This is the second annual field day camping excursion for SQ and UD. Last



year's trip was to Beaver's Bend State Park in Oklahoma, where we heard SWDCARC, Duncanville on 20 meters, but were unable to establish communication. We are planning an Autumn camping trip in Texas to perfect some new ideas regarding HF communications, then back to New Mexico for next year's Field Day.



I included a few pictures of the blessed event.

Larry Dingmore
KI5UD

"LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD" SOFTWARE DESIGN UNDER WAY

Fast on the heels of approval of the "Logbook of the World" by the ARRL Board of Directors, software design to support the electronic contact-verification program is moving full speed ahead. ARRL Membership Services Manager and LOTW Project Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the ARRL hopes to make LOTW software modules available soon to vendors for incorporation into their logging programs.

"We have been in touch with 15 or so developers of popular logging software," Mills said. "We're also looking at providing a basic, do-it-yourself program to get contact data to ARRL. "The logging software modules are being developed as part of the Trusted QSL open-source project headed by Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON. At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept is a huge repository of log data provided by operators--from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions--and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for awards offered by ARRL, and, it's hoped, for awards offered by other organizations as well.

Once it becomes available--which could be as early as the middle of next year--Logbook of the World will accept authenticated data directly from computerized logs via the Internet. "This is an e-mail based system that uses easy-to-obtain digital signatures for authentication," Mills said. "Once you get your digital certificate, a few keystrokes will do the trick."

Mills said the program envisions user access to the LOTW "confirmed database" so an operator can see what "matches" turn up--such as confirmation of new DXCC entities, states or grid squares. "We'll also publish a list of logs that have been submitted," he said, adding that operators may access the LOTW database once they've uploaded their own log data.

Heading up software development is ARRL Electronic Publications Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, along with Web Applications Developer Mark Simcik, WA1VVB.

Software specifications already have been established. In addition to Wagoner, those assisting the project include Dick Green, WC1M, Ted Demopoulos, KR1G, and ARRL staffer and well-known contesteer and DXer Dave Patton, NT1N. Mills said that he hopes to be able to announce a specific inauguration date for Logbook of the World within a few months.

CALIFORNIA AMATEUR AGREES TO STAY OFF REPEATERS UNTIL 2004

A California amateur is to stay off repeaters for the next two and a half years as part of an agreement with the FCC. But, if Technician licensee Lester M. Killingsworth, KE6WSC, of Hollywood, violates the agreement, he could face license revocation proceedings. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote Killingsworth on June 15, outlining alleged violations monitored May 17 on the W6NUT repeater system in the Los Angeles area. The letter included a transcript of some of Killingsworth's transmissions, which, Hollingsworth said, contained obscene and indecent language.

Killingsworth replied to the FCC inquiry by telephone in early July, and his response is "under review," Hollingsworth said. In the meantime, Killingsworth agreed to the suspension of his repeater privileges, and Hollingsworth said the FCC will hold any enforcement action in the matter in abeyance.

If there are no violations, Hollingsworth said, the repeater prohibition will expire automatically at midnight January 21, 2004.

Thanks to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League for these two articles.

Board of Directors Meeting For July

The meeting of the Board of Directors for the Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, July 3, 2001. Board members in attendance were Adam Adkins/KM5N, Rick Ellis/KJ5UY, Jack Ridley/KD5WN (temp Treasurer), Richard Baker/N5KXA and Bernie McPartland/KC5MQC. Club members Danny Cromaz/W5WB, Johnny Roberson/KJ5LB, Pat Roberson/KB5YPP, and Stan Harmon/KD5NBW were also present. There were no corrections to previous minutes to report. Jack presented the Financial Report, the most current version posted in the Groundwire. Johnny reported that the repeaters were functioning well. There were no new member applications to act upon. Adam reported that there were no requests for VE testing in June, and that he discovered that the information regarding VE testing had been removed from the ARRL web site. This has been corrected. The Groundwire was assembled for mailing. Old Business: Bernie thanked all that contributed to the success of Field Day this year. Danny reported that the adjusted final point total for Field Day was 5516 points, a new record for the club. The final entry was reviewed prior to mailing to the ARRL. Danny also reported that he is still holding onto the books that the club purchased for donation to the Lancaster public library. The library has just reopened following relocation to a new facility and will be accepting materials in the near future. New Business: The board discussed coming participation in the Duncanville Harvest-Fest, and Rick discussed display-

ing an HF station at the same location as the net base station. The next general meeting will be Tuesday July 17, 2001 with the program consisting of a recap of the club's activities at Field Day 2001. The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 7, 2001. Comments were taken from those present and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. Respectfully submitted by Rick Ellis/KJ5UY.

General Membership Meeting For July

Todd Huovinen/KB5TMD, Club President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The guests present were recognized. There were no corrections noted to the previous meeting minutes. The Financial Report was given by acting Treasurer Jack Ridley/KD5WN and is posted in the Groundwire. Under Committee Reports, Johnny Roberson/KJ5LB reported that both of the repeaters were

functioning properly. Adam Adkins/KM5N reported that there was no VE testing this month. The 2-meter net continues to maintain activity with 10-15 checkins per net session. Rick Ellis/KJ5UY reported that Field Day 2001 was a resounding success, with details presented later in the meeting as part of the program. There was no old business presented. Under New Business, Rick reported that he would be conducted Technician Class license preparation classes starting in August, and that anyone interested should contact him. The program was presented by Danny Cromaz/W5WB, recapping the club's participation in Field Day with many interesting photographs and commentary. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next general membership meeting will be held on August 21, 2001. Respectfully submitted, Rick Ellis/KJ5UY, Club Secretary.

FINANCIALS HERE