

Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club
H A M G R A M
late January /early February 2012

2012 Editor : Scott Haley (KD5NJR)

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From The (Vice) President

Happy New Year Guys.

At the January club meeting I made a motion (and it passed) that I take over the newsletter. I'll try not to editorialize, but I will try to make it informal and fun. I don't think anyone expects QST or QEX anyway. Things are bound to be pretty loose for a couple months while I get my feet wet. Guess what, you get to help.

I'll be playing around with the format over the next few months. Please send along your comments and constructive criticism. I said "constructive criticism" because I get enough crap from Guy. I've called the Monday Net with Gerry Paschal (KC5JKU) for years and years, and I'm looking forward to experimenting with writing. Some experiments work. Others don't. But I'd like to do this until there is a motion made and approved that someone else needs to do this.

If something is missing, please let me know. I'd like this to be a user-friendly document that people actually refer to. I'll post it to the club website and send it out via the club listserv prior to the club meetings.

Typically, this will be James' space. That is because traditionally the President has had a column in the Hamgram. I just didn't give him much of a heads-up this time.

This Month's Meeting

January's meeting was the annual officer elections. Per usual, when it came time to nominate you could hear the crickets chirping. However, a few brave souls stepped up for another year. This time....

President : James Taggart KE5SWU
Vice President : Scott Haley KD5NJR
Secretary : Dan Woods W5BM
Treasurer : Bruce Burnette K5PX

Treasurer's Report – Bruce (K5PX) (submitted via email 1/30/12)

December Balance:	\$3241.58
January Deposits:	\$ 390.00
January Expenses:	
Insurance	\$ 84.00
Table for Green	
Country Hamfest	\$ 10.00

New Balance (1/30/12) : \$3537.58

Let's try not to spend it all in one place.

Do we want to send out "reminder" postcards to folks that are overdue ? How about folks that are WAY OVERDUE !?! Maybe they've forgotten about ham radio ?

Membership / "New" Members (submitted by Bruce)

Howdy to John Winter W5AMR and Brian Railey KB6LZJ.

Keeping the spreadsheet up to date can be nerve wracking. If you have a question about membership, please let Bruce (K5PX) or myself know. It is possible to make a record-keeping mistake. If you're newly licensed and got a "free year" at a BAARC test session, please double check you've made it onto the rolls.

Suggestion I got in email : Attach the Roster periodically with the Newsletter. Is everyone okay with this? Do we need to let folks "opt out" of this ? What do we want to include in the roster that gets emailed out ? Emails ? Phones ? Hopefully this can be discussed soon.

Engineering Report

This is where the engineering report goes. Earl (W5UUW) is our repeater trustee. He heads up the engineering committee, which seems to be mostly him and Wade (KF5IF).

BAARC has two repeater sites: “Tiger Hill” near the corner of 71st Street and Lynn Lane (where Flight Safety and the water towers are) and Leonard Mountain where we’re co-located with an old City of Bixby Water Plant. Each site has a VHF and UHF machine. They are not cross-banded. They are not presently linked either.

So, we have

Tiger Hill

146.910 (-) PL = 88.5

444.000 (+) PL= 88.5 ← Echolink capable

Leonard Mountain

145.450 (-) // work in progress

443.600 (+) // work in progress

If someone can capture Earl’s Engineering Report at the club meeting I can include it in the next Hamgram.

VE Testing

2nd Saturday of Even Numbered Months (February).

Field Day Report

I got the impression that after several years (some at the Health Department and a couple near Asbury UMC) Wade (KF5IF) could use a break from his post as “Field Day Czar”. He’s worked diligently with Tony White (KA5TRO) Earl and a bunch of other folks to pull off big FD events. A lot of planning, meetings at Ron’s Chili, antenna test sessions, trips to mow, etc. go into Field Day. It’s not too soon to start planning 2012’s event... port-a-potties to rent, food to cook...

Speak up early and often if you’re available to help.

Some of the feedback I’ve received was centered the issues of Logging and WLAN. Let’s make a motion in February to get the N3FJP software (\$20) and start deploying it well in advance of Field Day.

Next Month’s Meeting

Gerry is on-deck for the February club meeting. After the short business meeting he’ll talk to us about Fuel Cells and their applications in amateur radio. I’ll be out of town on business (back to Texarkana) but James Taggart (KE5SWU) will keep things rolling. Our secretary Dan Woods (W5BM) will take notes. If there is something you’d like to bring to my attention, please let me know. I’ve got a good rapport with James and I suspect we’ll start having some discussions about how to coordinate the Hamgram with what the club is doing. Kd5njr@gmail.com.

From Around the Nets

This is the section where we recap what's been going on the nets we have on the .91 and .45 repeaters. I help run the Monday Night Nets but I can't participate in the all of the others all of time. If something of note gets mentioned, please let me know.

Things have been going pretty well on the Monday Night Net in January. Gerry took a couple of them off my hands while I was out of town. I don't have my log book in front of me while I write this, but I've enjoyed the conversations we've been having. One thing we ought to try and discuss more is how to mix ham radio into our other hobbies. Mike's (AE5QL) RV'ing with his radios is a good example of mixing radio and something else together. I talked with Jon (K4ISP) on the air recently and we arrived at the conclusion that while a few hams are in the Tulsa Rocketry club, they're not using the bands for recovery efforts at the launches. Not yet

If you're working on a particular project, please let us know about it and how it's coming along on the net. In recent memory we've had discussions ranging from the repair and use of old Collins equipment to construction and use of portable HF antennas.

Technical Topic

I'd like to have something here of a technical nature. Either I'll write it myself OR I'll find something from the Internet. If there is a topic you'd like to know more about, let me know.

Most everyone knows that there are few of us area hams that did or do work in the telecoms industry. In fact, that is how I finally got licensed, my boss Joe Gorkos (N5TEX) drug me to test session and prodded me toward a Kenwood TH-D7A. And ever since then, I've been pretty hooked on APRS . The APRS guys are on 144.390 (tune over there, you can hear the buzzing sound) It's intended to be a world-wide two-way messaging system using all different kinds of radios. You don't have to spend a lot of money to get started. Like Bob (WB4APR) says, APRS isn't about tracking vehicles, it's about helping hams find each other and what frequency they're talking on.

I didn't come with anything new this month, but I'd like to bring your attention to some earlier posts I made on the club website (www.w5bbs.org) that you might not have caught.

<http://www.w5bbs.us/page/2/?s=APRS>

<http://www.w5bbs.us/?s=APRS>

Click on the earlier posts and work your way forward. I'd appreciate your additional questions and feedback.

Also, there is an excellent primer video Bob gave at the TAPR (Tuscon Amateur Packet

Radio) DCC (Digital Communications Conference) in 2011 on Youtube.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7mQl6RSvyM>

One more thing about APRS : If you're active on APRS or would like to be, let me know so I can set up a mailing list and help out where I can.

I read a lot of blogs on the Internet about amateur radio. I use Google Reader to keep it all sorted out. I'll include some of the really good links periodically. If you find a really good article, let me know so we can pass the info along. Just to get things started, here is a good one for folks that like to homebrew.

Soldersmoke.blogspot.com

I've put other links in the website over the past year or so. If you don't know where to go for sunspot info or propagation info, let me know.

Upcoming Public Service / Local Events

I'm going to try and summarize in this space some of the information I get from Doug Lee about PS events, ARES / RACES / NWS / bike rides, marathons, so on and so forth.

Will also try to make mention of area Hamfests.

Gerry, Jon (K4ISP) and myself went to Cowtown Hamfest in Fort Worth recently. I think the conversation for 10 hours and the lunch at Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-b-que was the highlight of the trip.

It wasn't nearly as good (it wasn't as good as Enid) Green Country Hamfest. GCHF is in early March. www.greencountryhamfest.org

Per Doug Lee (KC5ZQM) and his outstanding weekly TRO Bulletin, upcoming opportunities to help out include the Post Oak Challenge on 2/25-26.

Also, the big Spotter Training event at OU-Schuesterman is Saturday morning March 3. More details to follow.

A Featured Local Ham

This might be a way to keep up with other hams. Some of us are car guys, model railroad guys, model rocket guys, astronomers, fishermen, etc.... Do you know who shares your interests ? Do you know who to ask questions too ? Let me know who's interesting and I'll write 'em up.

You could let me pick, or you could give me suggestions and I'll badger your "friend" for an interview ... for a small fee ;)

Upcoming HF Events

I am not the most active person in the world on HF. Not even close. I know the ARRL keeps a database of special event stations, but if you hear about one that sounds really cool for some particular reason, let me know about it. We'll put it here. Also, if you're having fun on a certain HF Net or frequency let me. It seems like when I'm tuning around I don't find a good place to "jump in".

Lloyd (AE5MM) passed along this site for finding contests to go work.

<http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

Area VHF Net Listings

This is where I'd like to make reference to VHF nets that are NOT on .91 or .45. For example: RCWA has a good net on Tuesday's, but with Alex running around, I'm not finding myself in the loop on nets much anymore. I just have the radio on here and there.

MON

TUES

Rogers County Wireless Association

147.090 (+) 7pm

Tulsa County ARES / RACES

146.880 (-) PL =88.5 9pm

WED

TH

FRI

SAT

SUN

Let's start with this link. <http://www.rcwa.org/Nets.html>

If you have any feedback, let me know. I'll use 'em to tweak our chart I've started above.

Classified Ads

Submit to kd5njr@gmail.com

Looking for an HF Amp & 30A Power Supply : KC5WSI

Contact Information / Back Page Junk

President : James Taggart KE5SWU // James, let me know what email you want to publish

Vice President : Scott Haley KD5NJR kd5njr@gmail.com

Secretary : Dan Woods W5BM

Treasurer : Bruce Burnette K5PX