

# AIRWAVES



## President's Letter

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### Special points of interest:

- Page 1 - A letter from the newly elected President, Larry Smith - K5XB
- Page 3 - Update on the Kenwood TS-2000 repair.

### Happy New Year!

New Year, new leadership, even some new members ... but the same old challenges. Even so, I'm still looking forward to a great year in 2017.

When I joined the club a little over a year ago, I had no idea what activities the club engaged in, if any. I didn't even have a real idea about what I wanted the club to do.

The first club activity I participated in was the L-3 Games 5k run. Certainly, service is a vital reason for any ham radio club to exist. Fellowship at the club meetings was, and still is good. That is also a vital reason for any ham radio club to exist. Then there are the repeaters to maintain and to provide a club presence on the air in some form; contests, Field Day, general operating, which has been somewhat hampered lately by the ailing HF radio. The club also can and should provide licensing classes and VE testing.

Besides the above, or even expanding on the above, I need to ask what it is that would interest you that you want the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club to do in 2017.

When you come to that first meeting

January 26, 2017, bring your ideas with you. Otherwise you might just end up having to do whatever it is Larry and Michael want to do. And no one wants that, not even Larry and Michael.

### *Everyone's turn in the barrel*

Every good club meeting includes a program, and here is where you come in. In order to prevent being volunteered to present a topic, we need 12 members to step up and pick a month to bring a presentation or lead a discussion topic at the monthly meeting this coming year. It doesn't have to be death by PowerPoint. I'm not sure we have time for that anyway. Maybe acute illness by PowerPoint is all we'd have time for. But most of what Ham's do in this hobby is interesting in some way, or there wouldn't be any Hams. So pick a topic, pick a month, and bring to the group the thing that excites you most about our hobby. Or at least gives you that warm, self-satisfied feeling that you get when something you tried almost worked out as planned.

See you at the meeting, and bring a friend.

73,  
Larry - K5XB

## Club Membership Drive

The MFARC membership drive started a few weeks before the Annual Business Meeting with a roar, as the drawing motivated many to pay their dues for 2017. If you have not done so yet, be sure to get your dues to John Nelson Jr - N0DFW to secure your membership. For E-Club members, dues are only \$10.00 per year; \$31.00 per year for non-E-Club members. It is strongly suggested that if you are going to join to consider joining E-Club first, as the cost is the same but provides added financial benefits for the club due to the number of E-Club

members we must maintain. If you have not joined before, you can simply fill out the membership form on the club website at [www.wd5gsl.org](http://www.wd5gsl.org) and click "Membership" tab. Submission of the form will be sent to the officers for processing. However, your membership does not start until dues are paid to the club Secretary/Treasurer. Please contact John Nelson Jr - N0DFW at [secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net](mailto:secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net) for more information.

## Annual Business Meeting

**Thursday, December 1, 2016** - The MFARC closed out the year in a different way than in the past. After taking an e-mail poll of members, it was decided to cancel the November meeting in favor of an early December meeting. The date was also polled and December 1st was chosen. In addition to the annual business meeting date change, the club also organized and held a door prize drawing at the annual meeting. The drawing was limited to members, however presence at the meeting was not required. There were four main prizes, which included a Yaesu FT-7900R VHF/UHF Mobile rig, a Signalink USB computer-rig interface and two Baofeng UV-5R high powered VHF/UHF handi-talkies. Tickets for the drawings were dispersed based upon some simple criteria, which included meeting attendance, activity participation, Field Day, and so on. The more activity resulted in more tickets and a better chance of winning something.

The Annual Business Meeting started with the drawing, which was conducted by John Nelson Jr - N0DFW and Michael Ketchum - K5MDK. Tickets were dispersed based upon records and reports from members. After a bit of a delay getting the meeting started, about 10 minutes, the drawing began. The Yaesu FT-7900R was won by David Rogers - KG5PKU. The Signalink USB gift certificate to Ham Radio Outlet was won by Jae Stutzman - K5JAE. The first of two Baofeng UV-5R radios was won by Scott Davis - KK7JS, followed by William Sanitate - KG5QCQ, who had

just received his license in November. There were some other prizes given away, such as L-3 coasters and several stress balls. See this month's article entitled "**Door Prizes**" for more details.

After the drawing was over, officer nominations were brought to the agenda and quickly closed, with the following nominations: President: Larry Smith - K5XB, Vice-President: Michael Ketchum (incumbent) - K5MDK, Secretary Treasurer: John Nelson Jr (incumbent) - N0DFW. A motion to perform a vote of acclamation was made and passed unanimously. The vote was taken for all officers by ascension and passed unanimously.

A presentation was made to Stephen Denison - W5SMD, for his hard work in the club as President and Newsletter Editor. His contributions to the club have been greatly appreciated by all and will be sorely missed, as Stephen is planning to move to the Fort Worth area in order to be close to family there.

Finally, there was some discussion on a couple of needs within the club, which include the Newsletter Editor and the Web Site Administrator. William Sanitate - KG5QCQ offered to assist with the web site.

## Door Prizes

**Thursday, December 1, 2016** - The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club held a door prize drawing at their annual business meeting. There were some great prizes that were given away, which included a Yaesu FT-7900R mobile VHF/UHF rig; Signalink USB gift certificate to Ham Radio Outlet; two Baofeng UV-5R High Power handi talkies along with seven other smaller prizes. The drawing was accomplished by membership participation, meaning that members earned tickets as they participated in the club meetings and events. 30 members obtained tickets based upon membership and meeting records, and the members were polled to e-mail their activity reports to the Vice President, where additional tickets were awarded for qualifying club events such as the IEEE fair, L3Games, Field Day, Repeater Work Day, Cotton Patch Challenge or for VE sessions and classes. Rules for the drawing

were sent out via e-mail before the drawing. The drawing was performed by our President, Stephen Denison – W5SMD and the winners were as follows:

- 1) Yaesu FT-7900R was won by David Rogers – KG5PKU.
- 2) HRO Gift Certificate was won by Jae Stutzman – K5JAE.
- 3) Baofeng UV-5R HP was won by Scott Davis – KK7JS.
- 4) Baofeng UV-5R HP was won by William Sanitate – KG5QCQ.
- 5) L-3 Leather Coaster Set was won by Jon Titzell – KF5PUR.
- 6) Six L-3 Earth Stress Balls were won by Victor Paul – WB0TEV, John Nelson – N0DFW, Stephen Denison – W5SMD, James Harper – KK5Y, Michael Ketchum – K5MDK and Shannon Sievert – N9ANP.

## Club Kenwood TS-2000 repairs

**Saturday, January 7, 2017** – The club owns a Kenwood TS-2000 HF rig. The rig is capable of HF, 6m, VHF, UHF and 1.2 GHz. However, during field day 2016, we discovered that the rig had no output on HF. A quick assumption was the finals have affected. This is possible, as the rig has two separate HF antenna ports and it could have been transmitting on the wrong antenna input. After some searching, it had been suggested to check the 5A fuse to the driver section. After doing a board probe, the fuse appeared to be blown. I quickly ordered two new board mounted fuses. The new ones came in a square package, instead of a round cylindrical one. In any case, I'm told this is the replacement part.



The hard part was to remove the Finals board. This involved removing RF shielded for the finals tuning package and many cables and connectors. Since the rig uses software to control calibration, there were ribbon connectors also involved. Once it was opened up, I replaced the fuse with ease, using my soldering station.

Next, came putting it all back together again. This

went a lot faster than I had anticipated. Once everything was buttoned up, I performed a basic functional test. The good news is, the rig was able to transmit on HF and VHF. The bad news is, the HF power output is limited to less than 10 watts at full power! I did hear the relays clicking in the finals tuning section, but there was very limited output on all HF bands.

The next step would be to replace the drivers and then the finals if that does not address the problem fully.

In examining my time, I feel it would be better to send the rig off to Avvid in Mabank, TX for repair. However, he is looking at problems getting driver transistors that actually work. All previous orders for the correct part have failed. So, we may be looking for a new source of driver transistors. I had no idea this would become a problem.

I'll check back with the club with follow-up articles to explain the progress.

73 de Michael – K5MDK

## Annual Business Meeting – Minutes

### MEETING MINUTES - Thursday, December 1, 2016

As members arrived, tickets for the door prizes were handed out.

Those that did not attend the meeting had their tickets added to the drawing bowl.

Stephen Denison - President, opened the meeting at 11:48.

Drawing

- A door prize drawing was held. The winners were as follows:

- 1) Yaesu FT-7900R was won by David Rogers - KG5PKU.
  - 2) HRO Gift Certificate was won by Jae Stutzman - K5JAE.
  - 3) Baofeng UV-5R HP was won by Scott Davis - KK7JS.
  - 4) Baofeng UV-5R HP was won by William Sanitate - KG5QCQ.
  - 5) L-3 Leather Coaster Set was won by Jon Titzell - KF5PUR.
  - 6) Six L-3 Earth Stress Balls were won by Victor Paul - WB0TEV, John Nelson - N0DFW, Stephen Denison - W5SMD, James Harper - KK5Y, Michael Ketchum - K5MDK and Shannon Sievert - N9ANP.
- Annual Elections were led by the club President.

- A motion was made to close the nominations.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

- A motion was made to accept all candidates by acclamation, since there was one nominee for each office.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

- An acclamation vote was held and passed by voice vote unanimously.

Appreciation Certificate Presented

- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK presented the current club President, Stephen Denison - W5SMD, with a certificate of appreciation for his good work in the club in many important ways.

- Club President
  - Newsletter Editor
  - Organizing three licensing classes each year
  - VE Coordination and administration
- Announcements were made by the President of upcoming events.

A motion was made to close the meeting.

- The motion was carried by voice vote unanimously.

Attendees:

John Nelson	N0DFW
Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
Victor Paul	WB0TEV
Kyle Flaherty	KF5TZN
Larry Smith	K5XB
Glenn Meyers	KA6IQW
Stephen Denison	W5SMD
Scott Davis	KK7JS
Jae Stutzman	K5JAE
Mark Bushnell	AE5FG
Jim Harper	KK5Y
Bob Yakel	KG5KKE
Will Sanitate	KG5QCQ
John Brown	WB5KSD
Peter Van Horn	KA5YDC
David Hunter	KC7CEX

## Contest Calendar

The following is a quick list of contests for the next couple of months:

### JANUARY

- 14 North American QSO Party, CW (14 – 15)  
[www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf)
- 21 North American QSO Party , SSB (21 – 22)  
[www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf)
- 21 ARRL January VHF Contest, ALL(21 – 23)  
[www.arrl.org/january-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf)
- 21 Feld Hell Sprint, DIG (21 – 22)  
<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub>
- 25 SKCC Sprint, CW  
[www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com)
- 27 CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW (27 – 29)  
[www.cq160.com/rules.htm](http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm)
- 28 Montana QSO Party, ALL  
<http://fvarc.org>
- 28 Winter Field Day, ALL (28 – 29)  
<http://winterfieldday.com/rules.html>

### FEBRUARY

- 4 Vermont QSO Party, ALL (4 – 5)  
[www.ranv.org/vtqso.html](http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html)
- 4 10-10 Int'l Winter, SSB (4 – 5)  
[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)
- 4 Minnesota QSO Party, ALL  
[www.w0aa.org](http://www.w0aa.org)
- 5 North American Sprint, CW  
<http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>
- 11 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest, DIG  
[www.cqwxrtty.com/rules.htm](http://www.cqwxrtty.com/rules.htm)
- 13 ARRL School Club Roundup, CW SSB  
[www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup)
- 18 ARRL Intl. DX Contest, CW  
[www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)
- 24 CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB  
[www.cq160.com/rules.htm](http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm)
- 25 North American QSO Party, RTTY  
[www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

## Calendar

### 2017

#### January

- 19 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital
- 20 Cowtown Hamfest, Forest Hill, TX <http://cowtownhamfest.com>
- 21 NWS Skywarn Basic/Adv Training Sheraton McKinney Hotel 8:30am – 4:30pm
- 26 MFARC Meeting PD North Conference Room at 11:45am

#### February

- 16 SVARA Meeting at 7:00pm at Hunt Regional Hospital
- 18 NWS Skywarn Basic Training Rockwell Co Library at 11:00am
- 23 NWS Skywarn Basic Training F. Warren Civic Center at 6:00pm
- 23 MFARC Meeting PD North Conference Room at 11:45am

#### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- Daily DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
- Daily DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 8:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
- Daily DFW CW Traffic Net (NTS) at 7:00pm and at 10pm on 3541 KHz [www.k6jt.com](http://www.k6jt.com)
- Thurs Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on the K5GVL/R 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz

**Friday Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Talk-In Net** Every Friday morning on your way in to work on the WD5GSL/R 147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0Hz

**MAJORS FIELD  
AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB**

**Phone:**

(903) 457-4646

**E-Mail:**

vice-president  
@wd5gsl.net

**We're on the  
Web!**

**See us at:**

<http://wd5gsl.net>

Your article submissions  
are welcomed. Please  
submit to  
editor@wd5gsl.net

Majors Field  
Amateur Radio Club  
Greenville, Texas



### Club Officers

President: Larry Smith – K5XB  
president@wd5gsl.net  
(254) 644-6465 cell

Vice President: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
vice-president@wd5gsl.net  
(972) 408-6573 cell

Secretary Treasurer: John Nelson Jr. – N0DFW  
secretary-treasurer@wd5gsl.net  
(903) 454-0911 cell

### Club Repeaters

Club Station: TBD

VHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R  
147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz

UHF Repeater: WD5GSL/R  
444.625 MHz (+) PL 151.4 Hz

MAJORS FIELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
10001 JACK FINNEY BLVD  
Attn: Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
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