



# THE SKEETER REPEATER

## HAM ASSOCIATION OF MESQUITE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016



### THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

#### 2016 HAM Officers:

President:  
Neil Dotson (KE5NSS)

Vice President:  
George Rice (KC5TOO)

Treasurer:  
Gary Danaher (AB5RM)

Secretary:  
Craig Green (KV5E)

Public Information Officer  
Ron Abraham (KC5IMJ)

Director at Large:  
Maryann Lewis (KE6DRS)

Newsletter Editor:  
Keith Dotson (KE5NUB)

Hello again,

It is interesting, at times, how one thing can lead to another. HAM was first introduced to me through adult leaders with a Boy Scout Troop in Terrell. They were part of a home schooling group who also included Kathy and Paul Sullivan, both members. They conveyed a message that HAM would soon be starting a Technician class, asking if anyone was interested. I was able to con my brother, Keith, into the classes with me with Dickey's BBQ where the classes were held. A few weeks later, before I had taken my test, my 2m radio and mag-mount antenna arrived. We set in the living room as Collin County Races was tracking a supercell and I was hooked.

Then Ham Radio in The Park started and I became more exposed to HF and how Billy's well-tuned, ground mounted vertical antenna can reach into the South Pacific using only 5 watts, Tim Lewis's antenna construction projects and classes. Andy's 40m delta loop, Mike's kit radios reaching across the country on very inexpensive wire from a local "tool" store, and Craig's radio knowledge and organizational skills, and so many other examples of how simple (or complicated) it can become.

This club has a great bunch of people who have known each other for many years, thick and thin. I am very glad to be a part of it.

Thank you.

Again, if there is anything you would like to suggest, present, or cover, please bring it up at the meeting or contact one of the board members. My email address is below.

Thank you and I hope to see you at the meeting!

Neil  
KE5NSS

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**Tuesday Night HAM  
Information Net:**

Every Tuesday Night at  
7:00PM on the WJ5J (145.310  
– PL 110.9)

Monthly business meetings are  
generally on the 1st Thursday  
of the month with exception of  
December. The meetings  
begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held  
at the:

Senior Room at Rutherford  
Recreation Center 900  
Rutherford Drive, Mesquite,  
Texas 75149.

**Siren Tests for The  
City of Mesquite are at  
noon on the first  
Wednesday of the  
month. The check in  
net starts at 11:45 a.m.**

**If you would like to  
help with this project  
please contact Ron,  
KC5IMJ, at 972-841-  
8921.**

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Our monthly meeting is this Thursday 05-May. We have a guest presentation by Frank Krizan, K5HS, on QIKcom-2 APRS Satellite communications. A .pdf file of his presentation is available if you would like to view it prior to the meeting.

[http://www.k5qhd.org/documents/K5HSpresentation\\_20160222.pdf](http://www.k5qhd.org/documents/K5HSpresentation_20160222.pdf)

A quick reminder that Earl, N5BFG, would welcome any newcomers to the Net Control ranks for the Tuesday night information nets. There is a printed script available and being net control is a great way to get over “mic fright” or to build your communication skills.

There has been an increase in simplex activity the past few months on 146.52 Especially during the evenings. Jump in and test the coverage area of your station.

Field Day has arrived. We are a little behind in putting a plan together so please let the club know if you have a radio, or other equipment, that can be set up at the Fire Training Center.

If you have anything for the newsletter please drop me a note at [ke5nub@yahoo.com](mailto:ke5nub@yahoo.com) or on the WJ5J repeater. I usually monitor 145.310 when mobile.

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**Update From Ron, KC5IMJ, our  
Public Information Officer**

First is a look at the speakers that George Rice has arranged for our HAM Thursday night meetings. I hope we can show appreciation for the guest giving of their time to have great turnouts for the programs.

**May 5 - Frank Krizan, K5HS, QIKcom-2APRS Satellite**

June 2 - MFD Captain Kelly Turner, Freedom Park

July 7 - MPD Chief Charles Cato, MPD Up date

August 4 - Greg Noschese, City Councilman

September 1 – Nick Copeland / Ron Abraham

October 6 - Cliff Keheley, City Manager

November 3 - Open

December 1 - No Meeting. No guest speaker.

January 5, 2017 - Open

February 2, 2017 - Open

March 2, 2017 – Open

The first Thursday of the month we have our monthly eyeball QSO held at the Rutherford Recreation Center in the Senior room. Start time is at 7:00pm. The Tuesday of the week of the monthly is monthly HAM Board of Directors meeting at Burger Style Cafe starting at 6:00pm. Every week on Tuesday at 7:00pm is the on-air general information net on the WJ5J repeater (145.310 w/PL 110.9). This usually followed by or in conjunction with the on-air chit chat with and eats at the expense of each person.

The third and last of the spring HritP events is scheduled for Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am to 3:00pm at DeBusk park located at Peachtree & South Parkway (Lat/Log of parking entrance N320 46' 55.3" W960 37' 43.5").

Then we have June the single busiest month of the year for scheduled activities for HAM. The first Saturday we have the Rotary annual Rodeo Bike Rally, followed by the Amateur Radio HAM-COM convention in Irving followed by ARRL Field Day.

The Mesquite Rotary sponsored Rodeo Bike Rally is scheduled for Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>. It has three routes that starts and ends at the Mesquite Rodeo and Convention Center. HAM and friends usually report to our assigned location by 8:00am and depending on assignment finish around 10:45am. Our net control is setup at the convention center. More information to come from George Rice (KC5TOO) as we get closure to that date. The web site for further general information is <http://www.mesquiterotarybikeride.com/>

**Update From Ron, KC5IMJ, our  
Public Information Officer**

The following weekend, Friday and Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> is the HAM-COM convention at the Irving Convention Center located at 500 West Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039 (Lat/Log from google map N320 877948 W96 943177). Visit to <http://www.hamcom.org/> find out more regarding seminars/presentations, cost, vendors, logging, etc. You probably want to visit several times as changes are made as programs, vendors and other information changes.

**And then comes the big event of the ARRL annual Field Day 2016 on Saturday Jun 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>. This year we will be moving from Paschall Park pavilion to the Mesquite Fire Department training facility located at 215 Holley Park (Lat/Log from Google Maps 32<sup>0</sup> 763384 W 96<sup>0</sup> 600757).**

**Hamfest/Convention** – Many more local hamfests and detailed contesting events are listed in QST.

**06/10/2016 | [West Gulf Division Convention \(Ham-Com 2016\)](#)**

**Location:** Irving, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** North Texas Area Clubs

**Website:** <http://www.hamcom.org>

**06/18/2016 | [Big Spring Amateur Radio Tailgate](#)**

**Location:** Big Spring, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Big Spring Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.qsl.net/w5aw/>

**07/16/2016 | [Tidelands ARS Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Texas City, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Tidelands Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://tidelands.org>

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### Update From Ron, KC5IMJ, our Public Information Officer

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#### What is coming up in Mesquite:

On Saturday, May 7, at 4 p.m., the **Mesquite Community Band** will host a free concert at the Mesquite Arts Center. For more details, visit Mesquite Community Band at <http://mesquitecommunityband.com/> for more information.

**Summer Sizzle**, a family-friendly festival, will be held on Saturday, June 11, from noon to 10:30 p.m. at Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road. A BBQ Cook-off and Mud Volleyball tournament are just two exciting activities that will be offered. BBQ Cook-off, Mud Volleyball and vendor registration forms are available online now. Go to Summer Sizzle at <https://www.cityofmesquite.com/1751/Summer-Sizzle> for more information. Keep Mesquite Beautiful and the City of Mesquite present

**“Mesquite Recycles Day,”** on Saturday, May 14, 8 a.m. - noon in the front parking lot of Poteet High School, 3300 Poteet Drive. For more information, visit Mesquite Recycles Day at <https://www.cityofmesquite.com/391/Mesquite-Recycles-Day> for more information..

To sign-up for Mesquite e-mail News Releases and notices from Emergency Management and more visit <https://www.cityofmesquite.com/list.aspx>.

Publications provided by Mesquite such as Mainstream an official monthly publication provided to inform and advise Mesquite citizens of municipal activities and learn how to get notified about citizen notification service alerts.

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### Outdoor Flea Market Returns to HamCom

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Update From hamcom.org - Directly outside the Irving Convention Center to the south, we have 50 outdoor swap-meet/parking spaces for use. If you wish to register for a space (or spaces) they sell out quickly so don't miss the opportunity to be part of this great Ham-Com event.

#### **Outdoor Swap Meet Hours**

Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Saturday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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## Guest Column from Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

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### **I'm EXTRA Ignorant**

**By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

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## Parting Shot

**New Member WAYNE R HARADER, W5CTT, joined us at Ham Radio in the Park last month.**