



# THE SKEETER REPEATER

## HAM ASSOCIATION OF MESQUITE NEWSLETTER

### AUGUST 2016



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Please join us Thursday, August 4th, for our monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Our guest speaker this month is

**City Councilman Greg Noschese**

We meet in the Senior Room at the Rutherford Recreation Center 900 Rutherford Drive, Mesquite, Texas 75149.

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## Presidents Pen from Neil, KE5NSS

Hello again,

Our 2 meter machine took a pretty good hit during the July storm. Fortunately, Billy was able to do the repairs at minimal cost of replacement parts. Between going up to assess the damage, gather the replacement items, and going back that evening to install and test the items, it turned into an all day affair. Kudos.

I did not have a chance at the last meeting to thank everyone who participated in Field Day this year. Even though participation was down a bit from previous years, it was a tremendous help having many hands available to setup, operate, and tear down. Those who stopped in to provide moral support and bring snacks are also appreciated. Thanks to all. If you think you would like to participate next June, now is the time to start brushing up on what you know and to try new modes while it is too hot outside for much else and there is plenty of time to learn and practice.

We have had several very good presentations at the recent club meetings and it looks as though a few more are in store for this year. The lineup of guest

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speakers will help us learn more about the how, what, and why of city operations. Be sure to attend and ask questions.

As always, if there is anything of cub interest you have on your mind, please bring it up on one of the nets, at the monthly meeting, or contact one of the board members. My email address is below.

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

Neil  
KE5NSS  
ke5nss@yahoo.com  
73

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## Have you signed up to be Net Control ? Now is the time.

Tuesday Night HAM Information Net:

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

Net control decides where we will meet for dinner and conversation. Guidelines are simple. Pick a place in Mesquite that is family friendly.

Contact Neil, KE5NSS, or Keith, KE5NUB, to grab a spot on the calendar.

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## Update from Ron Abraham KC5IMJ

First a bit of sad news, for those that have not heard or read AES is going out of business, closed its doors the end of July. The same location in Milwaukee will be gutted and remodeled for HRO to open in late August, no specific date. More info can be located at <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-electronic-supply-closing-after-59-years-in-business>. I did a good bit of business through AES Milwaukee prior to HRO opening in Plano.

Following is the current schedule of meeting speakers. It would be cool if we could have a full house.

August 4 - Greg Noschese, City Councilman  
September 1 – Nick Copeland / Ron Abraham  
October 6 - Cliff Keheley, City Manager  
November 3 - 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.

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The fall 2016 **HRiTP** has been set for September, October and November.

Sep 24 - DeBusk Pavillion      9am - 1pm  
Oct 15 - Town East Pav      9am - 1pm  
Nov 19 - City Lake Pav      9am - 1pm

The next planned event is the December year end Christmas gathering. This will be a pot luck dinner at the Rutherford Recreation Center. Date and time to be announced.

**Hamfest/Convention** (Posted on ARRL for rest of 2016.)

08/05/2016 | [Texas State Convention \(Austin Summerfest 2016\)](#)

**Location:** Austin, TX

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society

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

09/10/2016 | [Lubbock ARC's Third Annual Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Lubbock, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Lubbock Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://k5lib.org>

10/01/2016 | [HamEXPO](#)

**Location:** Belton, TX

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://tarc.org/hamexpo/>

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## ARRL Contest Calendar

### August 2016

- 6-7 **August UHF (3rd-Party Event)** - <http://www.uhfcontest.org/>  
20-21 **10 GHz & Up – Round 1** - <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>  
21 **Rookie Roundup – RTTY** - <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

### September 2016

- 10-12 **September VHF** - <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>  
17-19 **10 GHz & Up - Round 2** - <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>  
24-25 **EME - 2.3 GHz & Up** - <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

Additional contest may be found at [http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_contests/index\\_cq\\_contests.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/index_cq_contests.html). There are other sources on big wide web by using your favorite search engine and using 'amateur radio contest'.

### In Mesquite

The Mesquite Main Library, 300 West Grubb Drive, is a Poké-Stop and will be using Lure Modules within the game to attract even more **Pokémon to the library on Friday, August 5, from 3 - 5 p.m.**

**Marketplace will be held Saturday, August 13**, offering local fare from artisans, growers and craftsmen. The Marketplace is held every 2nd and 4th Saturday, April - October, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Mesquite's downtown square, 150 W. Main Street.

**Doggie Splash Day** will be held Saturday, August 13, from 9 a.m. - noon at Vanston Pool, 2913 Oates Drive. <https://www.cityofmesquite.com/290/Doggie-Splash-Day>

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## **Six Meter Repeater / Two Meter Repeaters Linked**

The six meter repeater on 52.750 ( pl tone 110.9 ) has been linked to the 2 meter repeater on 147.040 ( pl tone 136.5 ) Dig out those six meter antennas and get on the air. Or, use your 2 meter HT and make some six meter contacts.

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## **The YL ( XYL ) Weekly Net is gaining traction.....**

Monday night at 8pm There are two repeaters to choose from. The primary frequency (Dallas) is 442.325 (127.3), but you may also try (Fort Worth) 442.225 (110.9) as an alternate.

### 2016 HAM Officers:

President	Vice President	Treasurer:	Secretary:
Neil Dotson (KE5NSS)	George Rice (KC5TOO)	Gary Danaher (AB5RM)	Craig Green (KV5E)

Member at Large:	Public Information Officer	Newsletter Editor
Mary Ann Lewis (KD6DRS)	Ron Abraham (KC5IMJ)	Keith Dotson (KE5NUB)

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## 5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie – M0PZT @M0PZT

Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention

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while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

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## **From The Editor – Keith, KE5NUB**

Do you have a column or other item for the newsletter? Please send it to [ke5nub@yahoo.com](mailto:ke5nub@yahoo.com). Handwritten items can be submitted as well.

This newsletter is sent by e-mail to current and past HAM members and others as requested. E-mail KE5NUB@yahoo.com if you wish to update your e-mail or subscription.

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## FROM THE V.P. – GEORGE, KC5TOO



Parting Shot :