

**THE SKEETER REPEATER**  
HAM ASSOCIATION OF MESQUITE NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2015



2015 HAM Officers:

President:  
Neil Dotson (KE5NSS)

Vice President:  
Mike Malone (KD5KXF)

Treasurer:  
Gary Danaher (AB5RM)

Secretary:  
Sean Fox (K5EAN)

Public Information Officer  
Ron Abraham (KC5IMJ)

Director at Large:  
Craig Green (KV5E)

Newsletter Editor:  
Keith Dotson (KE5NUB)

**One Time  
Meeting Change**

This month's meeting will be the Christmas Party on Saturday evening. There will not be a meeting on Thursday evening of this week.

**Christmas Party**

The Christmas Party will be at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday December 5th at the Rutherford Recreation Center. Set up will be at 6 p.m. with finger foods and festivities starting at 6:30. There will be a "white elephant" style gift exchange. Gifts should be in the 10 to 15 dollar range. Bring a gift and you will go home with a gift. You will have opportunities to "steal" items from other folks that are participating in the gift exchange. Please contribute by bringing a snack tray or dish to share with others.

We have the room and kitchen from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m so we will start cleaning up around 8:30.

Please post what food item(s) you are bringing to the forums on the WJ5J.org so that we do not have several folks bringing the same dishes.

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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.

Please mark Saturday,  
April 2, 2016 on your  
calendar for the annual  
Rodeo Parade. I will be  
looking for volunteers  
to work the parade.

George Rice

KC5TOO

**Presidents Pen  
KE5NSS - Neil Dotson**

Hello again,

It looks as if the club is making slow, but steady, rebound. We currently have 45 members, and it is time to renew for next year. Some of us have lost loved ones this past year and they will be missed. Even with all the hustle and bustle this time of year, try to take time out to just enjoy time with friends and family.

I would just like to note that the proposed change in the club's bylaws will be voted on Thursday, January 7, 2016. There were not enough members in attendance for a quorum at what would have been the November meeting in order to hold a meeting, so voting did not take place. The change is intended to enlarge the pool of candidates for some of the club's elected offices. The proposed changes are included in this month's newsletter.

In January the club will form a nominations committee for the March elections. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please step forward at the January meeting. It would be great to see more participation in the club again.

I know life sometimes dictates one's participation of outside activities, but it would be great to see faces which have not been around for a while. The upcoming Christmas party would be a great time for this.

Again, if there is anything you would like to cover, please bring it up at the meeting or contact one of the board members. Also, there are a few of us who monitor the WJ5J repeater mornings and evenings in case you want to try and get in touch with us.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Neil  
KE5NSS  
ke5nss@yahoo.com  
73s

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## Update From Ron KC5IMJ

The following have been submitted to Mesquite Parks and Recreation for our currently known 2016 activities.

### **HRitP**

Saturday March 26, 2016 at Paschall Park. Pav. from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Saturday April 23, 2016 at City lake Park. Pav. from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Saturday May 21, 2016 at DeBusk Park Pav. from 9:00am to 3:00pm

### **Field Day**

Saturday June 25, 2016 from 9:00am through Sunday June 26, 2016 to 3:00pm

This is a 24 hour operation and request that rest rooms be left open as we will be there for 24 hour period for the annual ARRL Amateur Radio Field Day.

### **Monthly Meeting**

First Thursday of the month January 2016 through November 2016.

*Ron*

**KC5IMJ**

## FROM THE EDITOR

If you have any items for the newsletter please send them to me at [ke5nub@yahoo.com](mailto:ke5nub@yahoo.com).

Thanks,  
Keith Dotson  
KE5NUB

## Kids are Not the Future of Ham Radio

Posted on [21 November 2015](#) by [K0NR](#) — [29 Comments](#) ↓



You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

We've had really good success on creating new hams of all ages in our Technician License Class (at the [Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association](#)). We've been doing this for a while now and I think I am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios. Then this thing called *high school* happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

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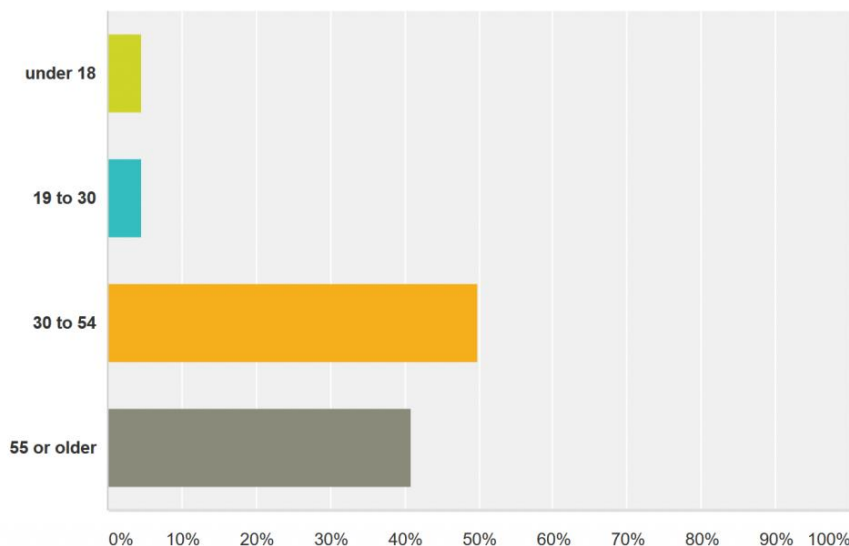
**Guest Column From K0NR**  
**as posted at [www.k0nr.com](http://www.k0nr.com) ( cont. )**

High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently [posted about the demographics](#) of our students in the Tech License Class. The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmmmm, clearly most of our students are 30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.

**What is your age?**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



For whatever reason, it seems that most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say "I want to get my ham radio license." When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

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*My hypothesis is that the most effective way of growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.*

This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees. We've all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don't want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that's my read on the situation. I've got some data to support my theory but I can't really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

73, Bob KØNR

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**Proposed changes to the club bylaws are below. These will be discussed at upcoming meetings before being voted on by the membership. Please take a look at them and be prepared to discuss with other current members of the club.**

From:

3.02 Qualifications of Officers. A Member of the Ham Association of Mesquite may serve as an officer provided He/She holds a valid amateur radio license. To hold any office a member must have been a member for at least one (1) year prior to the time of election.

To:

3.02 Qualification of Officers.

a. A member of the Ham Association of Mesquite may serve as an officer if He/She is at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of elections and must have been a member for at least one (1) year preceding the date of election.

b. A Member of the Ham Association of Mesquite may hold the office of President, Vice President, or Treasurer if He/She holds a valid amateur radio license.

c. A Member of the Ham Association of Mesquite may hold the office of Secretary, Public Information Officer, Newsletter Editor, or Director at Large if He/She:

1. Holds a valid amateur radio license, or
2. Is an immediate family member of one who holds a valid amateur radio license.