

THE SKEETER REPEATER
HAM ASSOCIATION OF MESQUITE NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2016



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)

Our monthly business meeting is on Thursday the 5th of February. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be in The Senior Room at Rutherford Recreation Center 900 Rutherford Drive, Mesquite, Texas 75149.

THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Hello again,

I think we are off to a fairly good start for the year. As you may already know at the January club meeting we were able to pass the proposed changes to the bylaws. We can check that one off the list! We also established a nominations committee for the upcoming election of officers in March. If you would like to run for office and have a more direct input of what happens with our club, please step forward and offer a year's service. Or, if you would like to nominate someone for office you can add them to the list at the February meeting as well.

A SKYWARN class for our area is on Saturday, February 20, this year. The complete listing of dates and locations can be found at their web site:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/skywarnsch.php?file=sptrsch>.

You may want to pass this along to others you know.

As always, 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
ke5nss@yahoo.com
73s

Club elections are in March. Please renew your membership so you can help select our 2016 officers.

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

FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the newsletter are always appreciated. They can be sent to me at ke5nub@yahoo.com. Handwritten items can be submitted if you are not able to send them by e-mail.

I have enjoyed putting the newsletter together this past year and hope to be able to do so in the future.

Keith Alan Dotson
KE5NUB

SKYWARN™ Spotter Training

Saturday Feb 20	Dallas	Garland	Granville Arts Center	9:00AM-12 Noon(basic) 1:30- 4:00PM(adv)
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Thursday Feb 25	Hunt	Greenville	F. Warren Civic Center	6:30-8:30PM
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Monday Feb 29	Kaufman	Terrell	Terrel City Service Center	7:00-9:00PM
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Saturday Mar 12	Rockwall	Rockwall	Rockwall County Library	11:00AM-1:00PM
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Tuesday Mar 29	Dallas	Irving	Old Irving City Library	7:00-9:00PM
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Update From Ron Abraham KC5IMJ

The following reservations have been made with 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

Satellite Package Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads Released into Orbit from ISS

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Space Bulletin 001 ARLS001

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington, CT February 1, 2016

To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS001

ARLS001 Satellite Package Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads Released into Orbit from ISS

A package of two satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads has been deployed into orbit from the International Space Station (ISS) as part of a collaborative Texas A&M and University of Texas at Austin research effort. Built by Texas A&M students, AggieSat4 (AGS4) will release UT's Bevo-2 CubeSat in about a month, once it is far enough away from the ISS. Both schools received support from NASA's Johnson Spaceflight Center (JSC) for the design, construction, testing, and launch phases. The goal of the overarching LONESTAR (Low Earth Orbiting Navigation Experiment for Spacecraft Testing Autonomous Rendezvous and Docking) program is for the two satellites to individually rendezvous with each other and perform docking and undocking maneuvers.

"The overall objective is to find ways for small spacecraft to join together autonomously in space," Helen Reed, KD7GPX, professor of aerospace engineering and director of the AggieSat Lab at Texas A&M told NASA. "We need simple systems that will allow rendezvous and docking with little to no help from a human, which will become especially important as we venture farther out into space. Applications could include in-space assembly or reconfiguration of larger structures or systems as well as servicing and repair."

The AggieSat team received its first beacon signal from the satellite at its Texas A&M Riverside Campus ground station. The AggieSat4 team is asking any Amateur Radio operators receiving the beacon signal to send any data to the AGS4 team via email to, aggiesat@tamu.edu .

AggieSat4 will transmit 9.6 kbps FSK telemetry and 153.6 kbps FSK on 436.250 MHz. Once it's placed into its own orbit, Bevo-2 will transmit on 437.325 on CW and 38.4 kbps FSK.

Both satellites were launched to the space station during a December 6, 2015, resupply mission. Earlier last week, Astronauts Tim Peake, KG5BVI, and Scott Kelly made preparations to deploy the sizeable LONESTAR phase 2 mission satellite package from the ISS, using the SSIKLOPS deployer. The satellite mission also will demonstrate communication cross links, data exchange, GPS-based navigation, and other tasks. AggieSat4 will capture images of the Bevo-2 release.

The satellites were independently developed by student teams at the two universities. Both teams were responsible for development plans for their satellite and had to meet established mission objectives.

The Bevo-2 Satellite was designed, built, and tested in the Texas Spacecraft Lab (TSL) at the University of Texas at Austin. "This whole experience is very exciting," TSL Director Glenn Lightsey, KE5DDG, said last fall as undergraduate and graduate students were in the final stages of their project. "It's great to have a research program where our students can build satellites that fly in space."

Reed and Lightsey are co-investigators for the LONESTAR 2 project.

NNNN

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VP8SGI South Georgia DXpedition

The [VP8SGI team](#) on South Georgia has been running several stations simultaneously in an effort to work as many of those needing need the rare DXCC entity. The pileups have been enthusiastic, if not always orderly. The VP8SGI operators are *not* listening on their transmit frequencies, so it's necessary to operate split; listen to the operator's instructions on whether to transmit above (UP) or below (DOWN) their own frequency. (from ARRL.org website. More info available at that website - Ed.)