

THE SKEETER REPEATER

HAM ASSOCIATION OF MESQUITE NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2016



THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Hello again,

March marks a year since our club's last election of officers. The time has gone by quickly. Working closely with the other Board Members it has become obvious to me that we have a good group of core members who really care about the hobby and the wellbeing of the club. My thanks to all of them!

Looking forward I hope to see us grow more over time. Any licensed HAM can run for office and I encourage more people to do so. The new officers will also be appointing committees, so even if you do not care to hold an office there is plenty of opportunity for your participation and input. One committee which comes to mind will be for Field Day.

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

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)

RODEO PARADE

This is a reminder the Rodeo Parade is Saturday, April 2, 2016 and I am looking for volunteers to assist with the parade this year. If you can assist this year please reply by email to George, KC5T00, at g.rice1301@gmail.com or by phone .

Thanks, George
972-222-3312

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.

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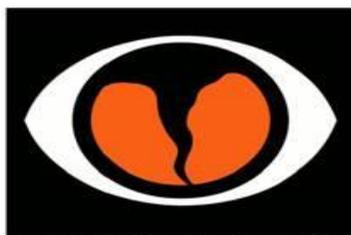
FROM THE EDITOR

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.

The NWS has added an additional training opportunity. The information is below.

Keith Alan Dotson
KE5NUB



SKYWARN



SKYWARN

Storm Spotter Training

March 3, 2016

6:30-9:30PM (Doors Open at 6:00PM)

Rowlett High School (Cafeteria)

4700 N President George Bush Hwy
Rowlett, TX 75088

Come learn how to better prepare your family for severe weather. SKYWARN training is free to anyone interested in weather and weather preparedness. Citizens learn the basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, and basic severe weather safety.

Local vendors will also be on site to provide information on safe room/storm shelter purchasing and installation.

Visit www.skywarn.org or call 972.412.6230 for more information

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

Update From Ron Abraham KC5IMJ

We are approaching our active time of year. We have several events on the calendar. First we have the normal every month activities.

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.

March starts our spring Ham Radio in the Park (HritP) monthly events that will run through May. March is going to be held at the Paschall park Pavilion at 1001 New Market Rd. Mesquite, TX 75149 (Lat/Log to park entrance N32° 45' 21.9" W96° 36' 29.5") on Saturday March 26th. The event is scheduled from 9:00am to 3:00pm. There is a potential of good some good exposure to the public as the Paschall Disk Golf course starts and ends in this general area along with the practice area.

Saturday April 2nd will be the Mesquite Annual Rodeo Parade that kicks off at 10:00am. AM amasses at about 7:30am and generally completes our activity by between 10:30 and 10:45 time frame. What do we do? We work with the parade participants to get them proper position in the long line pf participants ranging from bands, floats, organizations, horses, dogs, etc. The positioning comes from a map, alphabetical and unit number list of participants all but together by George (KC5TOO) and Bennye Rice (KC5UBZ). If you can help please contact George or Bennye. You might here one of them on Tuesday night information net or at the March eyeball QSO on Thursday March 3rd.

The April HRitP event is scheduled for Saturday the 23rd at the City Lake Park Pavilion located at 200 Parkview Ln Mesquite, TX 75149 (Lat/Log for parking entrance N32° 45' 42.0" W96° 35' 59.9") from 9:00pm to 3:00pm. There also the possibility of some good public exposure as the pavilion is between the small lake, the Aquatic Center and Little League ball park. I have herd, although not confirmed, that this may be the time for the second HAM craw-fish boil.

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Update From Ron Abraham KC5IMJ (cont.)

The third and last of the spring HritP events is scheduled for Saturday May 21st 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 4th. 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/>

The following weekend, Friday and Saturday June 10th and 11th 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 25th through Sunday June 26th. 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^o 763384 W 96^o 600757).

Two members of the Ham Association of Mesquite
receive awards for their volunteer service.

George Rice, KC5TOO, and **Benny Rice**, KC5UBZ, were recently recognized for their volunteer service to the City of Mesquite. Benny received the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for Mesquite Fire Corps and George received the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for Mesquite R.A.C.E.S. George and Benny are assets to the Mesquite community and do a fine job representing HAM .

Please join us in thanking them for their hard work and dedication.

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition That Seeks 80/75 Meter Adjustments

Craig Green, KV5E, brought this item to our attention at the Board of Directors meeting. The following is from the AARRL website :

02/23/2016

The FCC has put the ARRL's January *Petition for Rule Making (RM 11759)* on public notice and invited interested parties to comment on what the League has called "minimal but necessary changes" to 80 and 75 meters. The ARRL petitioned the FCC to fix a "shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum" that the Commission created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters 10 years ago.

The League's petition asked the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The proposed change received strong support from ARRL members, and the ARRL Board of Directors adopted it as policy at its July 2015 meeting. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Novice and Technician licensees within their current 15 meter CW subband, and to do the same on 80 meters, depending on the outcome of the 80/75 meter subband revision.

The petition asks the FCC to make the following changes to the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules, with respect to 80/75 meters:

- Modify the RTTY/data subband, so that it extends from 3500 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Modify the phone/image subband, so that it extends from 3650 kHz to 4000 kHz.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available for General and Advanced Class licensees, as was the case prior to 2006.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available to Novice and Technician licensees for telegraphy — consistent with existing rules permitting Novices and Technicians to operate CW in the 80, 40, and 15 meter General and Advanced RTTY/data subbands.
- Modify the rules governing automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS), to shift the ACDS segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.

According to the ARRL, the FCC *Report and Order* in Docket 04-140 released in 2006 departed substantially and without justification from the rules proposed in the FCC's so-called "Omnibus" *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*, with respect to 75 and 80 meters. Among other actions, the resulting changes expanded voice privileges on additional frequencies in various bands, including 75 meters. The FCC shifted the phone/image subband from 3750-4000 kHz to 3600-4000 kHz, trimming the 80 meter RTTY/data subband from 3500-3750 kHz to 3500-3600 kHz and substantially changing "the entire dynamic of this band," the League said.

Although the Omnibus *R&O* had indicated that incumbent licensees would not lose any operating privileges, some clearly did, the ARRL has pointed out. The most substantial adverse effect of the "unexpected and vast expansion" of the 75 meter phone/image subband, the League said, was the elimination of access to 3620-3635 kHz by ACDS. The Omnibus *R&O* rule changes limited 80 meters to 3500-3600 kHz, and no longer authorized RTTY and data emissions above 3600 kHz. That the Omnibus *R&O* did not modify § 97.221 of the rules to provide for ACDS "was clearly an oversight by the Commission."

After the FCC denied a subsequent ARRL *Petition for Reconsideration*, the Commission replaced the inadvertently deleted 3620-3635 kHz ACDS segment with 3585-3600 kHz.

“Far from fixing the problem created by the error in the Omnibus *R&O*, the moving of the inadvertently deleted digital subband downward in frequency below 3600 kHz made the situation in the 80 meter RTTY/data subband even worse than it was,” the ARRL said. The result has been a shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum at 80 meters.

“ARRL has analyzed the regulatory limitations as part of a comprehensive effort to make more efficient the use of those HF allocations, especially with respect to encouraging further experimentation and proficiency in narrowband digital communications technologies,” the League said in concluding its *Petition*. “The recommendations for modified band plans developed by ARRL necessitate the few, but important regulatory changes proposed.”

CLOSING QSL CARD