

T H E S I G N A L



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Upcoming Local Events

Tour de Tulsa, Saturday 07 MAY 11

TARC will provide communications support for this ride that goes from the River West Festival Park to Bristow for the 100-mile route. Support will include SAG vehicles and stations at strategic locations along the routes. For more info about the ride itself, go to <http://www.tulsabicycleclub.org/tourdetulsa.php>. To volunteer contact Jay Eimer, AD5PE, at 918.371.9137 or ad5pe@arrl.net.

Maple Ridge Run, Monday, May 30, 2011 (Memorial Day)

TRO will again provide communications support for the Maple Ridge Run. Runs begin at 0800 and are usually concluded by or before 1200. Volunteers need to arrive at 0700. You can't be late or the streets will be blocked. **Fun, communications practice and HAM fellowship.** Contact: Tommy - 146.88 repeater, KD5OPH@tulsahamradio.org or 918.695.3735

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next TRO Meeting:

Tuesday, April 26, at Ryan's Steakhouse, 10934 E. 21st St., Tulsa, OK. Presentation on ARES by Mark Conklin, N7XYO.

Up-to-date information on TRO Events: <http://www.tulsahamradio.org/othrevents.htm>

Field Day Info Packet (ARRL):

The Purpose of Field Day is to demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations.

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2011/2011_FD_Packet.pdf

ALL ABOUT NETS

WHAT IS A NET ?

According to Wikipedia, an amateur radio net is an “on-the-air” gathering of amateur radio operators. Most nets convene on a regular schedule and specific frequency, and are organized for a particular purpose, such as relaying messages, discussing a common topic of interest, or simply as a regular gathering of friends for conversation.



Who can check into a Net? Anyone within the sound of the NCS's voice.

NCS (Net Control Station) or NCO (Net Control Operator) acts as the host or moderator for the Net.

ARRL ONLINE NET DIRECTORY

The ARRL Online Net Directory shows Amateur Radio nets that have been registered with ARRL Headquarters net directory database. You can search the database for a particular net here: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search>

TULSA AREA ARES/RACES NET

According to the ARES OK website, the purpose of ARES is to provide aid to people affected by fire, flood, tornado and other disasters. You can read about ARES and RACES here: <http://www.tulshamradio.org/ARES/aresracesFAQ.htm>

Mark Conklin N7XYO, Net Manager, is looking for positive ideas to improve the Tuesday night, Tulsa area ARES/RACES Net. (146.880-PL88.5)

- What can be done to make the net more of a training resource?
- What would you do to get more folks to check in?

He's also looking for a backup NCS every week, as well as a replacement Net Manager for this Net. Mark's duties as ARES-OK SEC are taking much of his time. The **Net Manager's Job** is to recruit NCS volunteers and ensure reports are sent by NCS as needed.

Send your ideas to Mark at N7XYO@arrl.net

AMATEUR RADIO AREA TESTING DATES

Third Thursday of odd numbered months. 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cross building, 11th & 169. Contact Merlin Griffin. Phone 520-7668 or e-mail wb5osm@hotmail.com.

Second Saturday of even numbered months, 9:30 a.m. at the Church of Christ, 505 E. Kenosha Street, Broken Arrow. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Don Doyle—AC5II at ac5ii@arrl.net or 379-0962.

First Saturday of odd numbered months, 9:30 a.m. at Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E 93rd Street, Tulsa, OK 74133.

2011 Schedule:

- May 7
- July 9
- September 10
- November 5

Walk-ins welcome. Contact Tom K5EHX. E-mail: tom@k5ehx.net or phone: (918)835-7889 and leave message. Talk-in on 146.55 simplex.

Last Saturday of each month 10:00 A.M. at the Martin East Regional Library, 2601 S Garnett Road, Tulsa, OK. All testing by appointment ONLY. Please contact Pete KF5RD at mann.p@cox.net or 918.437.4846. Always check with Pete. This group changes schedules regularly.

Ham Test Online. A very effective online study course for hams. www.hamtestonline.com

THE PREZ SAYS . . .

My first meeting as Prez is in the books, and I survived. You didn't crucify me too bad.

As an incentive to get more members involved in events, we're going to have a drawing at the end of the year from a pool of members that worked a TRO event (not including Field day). The prize, to be determined, could be as much as a \$100 bill! In addition to this annual drawing, we will also have a drawing at some of our other events for a "free dinner." To be including in the drawing, you must work the event.

To get more exposure and draw in new members, we're looking at doing a net from different locations, such as a mall or Wal-Mart, when the weather is a little more favorable.

The Scout camporee is this month. For those working the event, be sure that you have your

Child Protection Certificate while working on the property. If you're not working the camporee, be sure to listen on the repeaters, on April 30, to talk to the Scouts at the Ham Shack at the Camporee.

I want to thank Steve Piltz for the presentation at the March meeting. He explained some of the changes to the forecast pages and the dipole radar.

We're developing an application for new organizations or events wanting our services. It will have to be filed 45 days prior to the event. The Board will have to approve it; then it will go to Membership for approval. This way we will work only events that you want and hopefully not overload our members. This will be on the web page very soon.

Stanley Callahan, KE5HPB

TRO President

ENGINEERING REPORT - STEVE MILLER AA5V

146.94: We are still without a permanent home for the 146.94 Repeater. In the February Signal, I mentioned our communicating with the City of Sand Springs about a new location or two for 146.28 receivers or the 146.94 Repeater. I have no new news about this process.

I have made more progress of the programming of the controller in the new 146.94 Repeater and will begin the installation in its cabinet soon. I am sure this will bring more situations to overcome; but, I'll get to the finishing point pretty soon.

146.88: Since the report in the February Signal I have the two CAT200B repeater controllers back from Computer Automated Technology. There is still one of them not working correctly, but one did. It is installed in the link receiver and the whole package has been reinstalled at the Mid-Continent Building. Some audio adjustments must still be made at CityPlex to complete this project. Low and behold, I go to CityPlex on Saturday morning April 2, 2011, and they didn't have my name or the Tulsa Repeater Organization in their computer as having equipment in their building, so, security would not



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ENGINEERING REPORT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

allow me access to the equipment. I have since fixed that problem and now it is a matter of time to get back there to make these adjustments.

I was really glad to find the link receiver and downlink transmitter audio problems all seemed to be a matter of connections with the 16-pin connector on the rear of the Maxtrac VHF receiver and possibly a connection or two on the 9-pin connector into and out of the controller. I replaced that 9-pin din and all the wiring to it in the controller.

John Brudvik - KC4URD did a real nice job awhile back on the 9-pin that plugs into the controller from the receiver. No, I didn't have to touch that. Anyway, everything looked great on the

service monitor with the equipment on the bench. I believe the audio problem that began the evening of April 14, when storms were rolling through town, are caused by the voting card at CityPlex; and, as I said earlier, I hope to make a trip to CityPlex very soon.

146.805: Mark Thrash - WB5MBK reports the receiver and transmitter coverage is much better after having the duplexer tuned at the Hamfest in March. He is looking forward to getting new antennas, feedline and connectors to bring that system back to tip top shape.

444.1: Merlin Griffin WB5OSM No new news about this repeater and getting it installed.

HAM NEWS HERE AND THERE**HAM RADIO TO CELEBRATE ROYAL WEDDING**

Amateur Radio in the UK may participate the upcoming royal

wedding. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has made an agreement with UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom for all UK Radio Amateurs to use special callsigns for a period of eleven days beginning on the date of the marriage of HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton on April 29th. Use of the special GR prefix will require a waiver called a Notice of Variation from Ofcom.

UNLICENSED RADIO STATION HAS TO PAY UP!

Florida resident, Marckenson Bazile, Miami, FL, was hit with a \$20,000 Notice of Apparent Liability by the FCC for allegedly operating an unlicensed radio station in June, 2010. How did he get caught? He advertised it on the Internet!

More HAM News: Amateur Radio Newslines: www.arnewslines.org

**Participate in QuickStats Poll from ARRL:**

Do you operate HF portable while camping or hiking? Have you earned an ARRL Worked All States award? How old is your oldest transceiver? Do you monitor W1AW transmissions? ARRL wants to know and the results will be published in an upcoming issue of QST. <http://www.arrl.org/quickstats>

THE VP CORNER

Here it is mid-April and where is the weather? First note all TRO meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of the month and not always the last Tuesday of the month. Exceptions to this rule are no meetings in June because of Field Day and the December meeting (Christmas party) to be announced at a later date.

I am doubled booked for the next meeting April 26th and want to pass this information on how to build a roll up 2 meter antenna.

Edison Fong WB6IQN has three designs for roll up antennas. This information is for the half wave vertical dipole 2 meter J Pole roll up antenna DBJ-1.

Material requirements:

1. 54 inches of 300 ohm twin lead antenna wire
2. 15 foot RG174/A or RG58B/U
3. Coaxial connector your preference a BNC or PL 259.
4. Black Tape

Tool Requirements:

1. Side cutters.
2. Sharp knife
3. Tape measure
4. Solder iron and solder

Procedure:

Measure 37 ¼ inches from the top cut one ¼ inch gap on one side of the twin lead.

Measure from the edge of the gap down another 15 ¼ inches carefully remove the jacketing material around both twin lead wires exposing the copper conductors.

Solder the center conductor to one side and the shield of the coax to the other exposed twin lead conductor. Do not break the lead in wire when soldering the

coaxial cable to the lead in. Secure the connection and tape as needed.

Measure from the edge of the coaxial connection to the lead in wire down 1¼ inches, expose the twin lead in wire on both sides long enough to short the two leads together. Solder and tape this connection.

Finally punch a small hole between the lead in wire near the top to run a nonconductive hanger through and secure the antenna upright and test the SWR. I used strong 20 lbs. fishing line. The SWR should be roughly 1.2:1.

Good luck and if you make one bring it in to the next meeting for all to see. There are two more versions that include both VHF and UHF J Poles. These antennas work very well and are good to have in a "Go Kit." Have fun.

Joe Gorkos, N5TEX
TRO Vice President

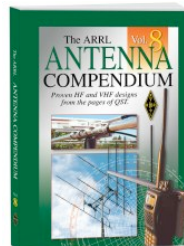
Antennas On The Internet:

Harris County ARES-DBJ-2 antenna (PDF): <http://harriscountyares.org/training/KNW/KNW-123.pdf>

Edison Fong DBJ-1 VHF-UHF Dual-Band J-Pole:
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/0302038.pdf>

Eyepoet's Cheap and Quick Traffic-Cone Antenna Stand for ARES/RACES Work: [http://](http://www.eyepoet.com/site/?q=node/23)

www.eyepoet.com/site/?q=node/23

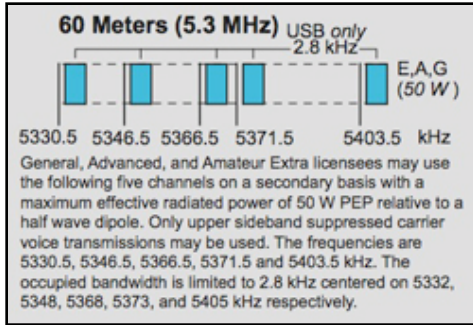


ARRL Antenna Compendium:
<http://www.arrl.org/shop/The-ARRL-Antenna-Compendium-Volume-8/>

ANSWER TO HAM QUIZ, MARCH 2011

Q: What is the maximum power output permitted on the 60 meter band?

A: 50 Watts ERP relative to a 1/2 wave dipole.



Interesting facts about that band:

- Only U. S. amateur band where CW (Morse code) is not permitted.
- Only U. S. amateur band where USB is the only authorized mode.
- Only U. S. amateur band below 14 MHz where LSB is not used.
- Only U. S. amateur band where power limits are given in ERP.

- Only "channelized" U. S. amateur band. Five distinct frequencies instead of a band of frequencies.
- Frequencies permitted for U. S. Amateurs in the 60M band.

Center	Dial' Frequency (USB)
5332 kHz	5330.5 kHz
5348 kHz	5346.5 kHz
5368 kHz	5366.5 kHz
5373 kHz	5371.5 kHz
5405 kHz	5403.5 kHz

Merlin Griffin, WB5OSM

President, Green Country Hamfest, Inc.

Image from ARRL: US Amateur Radio Bands - http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Hambands_color.pdf

FROM THE INTERNET . . .

HAM-COM Ham Fest:



They say everything is bigger in Texas!

On **June 10-11, HAM-COM 2011** is not only having "The biggest HAM Fest in Texas," but they're also hosting the **ARRL 2011 West Gulf National Convention** at the same time. HAM-COM

2011 will be held at the Plano Center (<http://tinyurl.com/ne77qk>) in Plano, Texas. Free parking! For more info, check the HAM-COM website.

www.hamcom.org

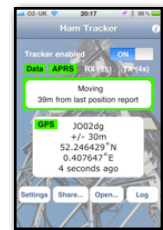
For Newbies:

YouTube Video: How to Contact People on a HAM Radio: <http://youtu.be/Z4onGMHXXV0>

Check out Hello Radio www.hello-radio.org

HAM Tracker:

The Ham Tracker app allows Radio Amateurs on the move to send location updates to APRS-IS (the Internet side of APRS) from their mobile device. Once sent, your position can be tracked using services such as aprs.fi.



<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ham-tracker/id406552499?mt=8>

TRO MINUTES - 3/2/2011

The Meeting was called to order by Stan Callahan KE5HPB at 19:25 hrs.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Ed Compos K5CRQ motion by Bill Downes KE5VKB was made to accept and seconded by Tom Stroud KD5OPH. Motion passed on vote.

Treasurers report was read by Gary Parham KC5ZQP and a motion to accept made by Ed K5CRQ and seconded by Bill KE5VKB and passed on vote.

Engineering advised that the 444.100 repeater is up and running at Merlin Griffin's WB5OSM residence and ready to be put back in-service.

The 146.28 controller is back and fixed and was placed in-service and then quit. Should be a small problem. (as of printing it is up and running).

We are working on getting a location in Sand Springs for the 146.9 repeater. More to come.

Maple Ridge Run is May 30, 2011. Contact Tom KD5OPH to help out.

Tour DE Cure will be Saturday, June 4, 2011 and we need 20 to 25 operators. It goes from Cherry Street to Kellyville. Help if you can.

A discussion was held on giving tickets out to operators that help with events and at the end of the year have a drawing for a gift certificate for diner or something.

Larger events may have a drawing of their own after the event.

TRO Shirts. Unique Stitches has some shirts in stock and will do individual shirts with the TRO Logo on them. There was a problem with shirts that came up and that has been cleared up. After a motion by Ed K5CRQ and second

by Steve Miller AA5V, the motion passed to sell them to our members when they walk in.

Green Country was a great success, and everyone had a great time. Good turn out. The TRO prize was a 5/8 wave mag antennae.

Meeting was closed at 2005 hrs.

Steve Piltz KA9MLL our friend from the National Weather Service in Tulsa gave a talk on things happening within the weather service and info in reference to storm season. Good program and a big thanks to Steve for coming out.

Ed Compos, K5CRQ

TRO Secretary

NEWS: TRO Member, Ben Joplin, WB5VST, did a presentation on APRS at Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club Meeting.

**HAM QUIZ:**

Since your newsletter editor is working on her General Test, this month's question is from the General Test Pool:

**Why is the F2 region mainly responsible for the longest distance radio wave propagation?**

- A. Because it is the densest ionospheric layer
- B. Because it does not absorb radio waves as much as other ionospheric regions.
- C. Because it is the highest ionospheric region.
- D. All of these choices are correct.

GREEN COUNTY HAMFEST AND ME

by Doug Lee, KC5ZQM

The 2011 Green Country Hamfest has come and gone – along with a good deal of my money! But I had fun, and I hope I made some wise purchases.

FRIDAY NIGHT

I made several stops along the way Friday, so I arrived at the Claremore Expo Center a little bit after the hamfest opened. After picking up my 3 tickets and putting on my green wristband, I checked in with Joe Gorkos, N5TEX, who was watching the front entrance. I told him I had volunteered to help at that position that night. He took advantage of the opportunity to go shop for a new HT headset. When he returned, I took my turn at making a preliminary walkaround. I was in the market for a dualband mobile and parts for an extended power cord.

Early on, I noticed Don Foster, K5KW had a used Kenwood TM-V7A dualbander for sale. I told him that me buying that radio would be ironic because in 1998 I bought from him the ICOM IC-228H that I am replacing. I had that venerable old 2 meter rig in 3 different cars, and it worked fine until the antenna connector started to come apart. Don takes good care of his radios, so I knew it would be in

good shape, and he had a good price on it. I passed on it because I wanted to see what else was available.

Also, I mentioned that I thought he had gone Silent Key. We were both glad to find out I was wrong!

I did pick up a package of Anderson Power Poles that night, before relieving Joe once again at the front as he had to help his wife handle an automotive problem. From the hamfest, I went to the Microtel Inn where I showered and checked Facebook on my laptop before turning in.

SATURDAY

Saturday began with a Greek omelet at Eggbert's. Before I finished it, several middle aged guys passed by on their way out, and one said, "You look like one of those radio guys from behind!" They were all wearing ham radio shirts.

Back at the hamfest, I did some more looking around before taking in the weather and ARRL/ARES forums.

Ed Calianese, W5SVR, covered the basics of storm spotting. After some feedback, he said he might cover radar interpretation next year.

Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, covered quite a range of topics in the ARRL/ARES forum.

First, he announced that Mark Conklin, N7XYO was stepping up to fill a vacancy as Section Emergency Coordinator, left by Charles Goodson, KC5UEG, as he moves on to explore other opportunities. My thanks to both for their past and future service to ham radio and the public. I know Mark, and I expect he will do a fantastic job!

Next, Kevin, N0IRW, discussed HR 607 and the potential threat to the 440MHZ band. He encouraged everyone to check the ARRL website for more information, and to let their congressional representatives know how they feel about the issue.

Kevin segued into an account of his visit to ARRL HQ during the New Section Managers' Orientation. He talked about how the staff works so hard on behalf of all hams, operating W1AW, and the technical resources available there.

While discussing ARRL publications, someone requested a How-To, technical guide to repeaters, a "Repeaters For Dummies," if you will.

Ben Joplin, WB5VST asked about the effects of D-Star on the ham frequencies. That led to a lively discussion of digital audio and modes in the amateur and other radio services. The major concern is that some groups are

changing to digital with no provision for analog backup.

In the ARES portion of the forum, Kevin, N0IRW, began by passing around samples of a new ID badge the leadership is working on for ARES statewide. Once the new badge program is in place, two levels of ARES membership will be established. Associate members will only need a call sign and a willingness to help if needed. Full members will have to provide certification that they have gone through ICS and EMCOMM training, and to register with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. OHP troopers will be have scanners in their cars that can read the cards. Once the OHP is satisfied, the cardholder can then enter a

restricted disaster area. More details will be available as the leadership works out the kinks.

The other major news from this forum is a statewide Simulated Emergency Test the first weekend in October. The goal of this exercise is to see how information flows from the grassroots level up to the state leadership. It will also give leaders at all levels to see where improvement is needed.

After the forum, I paid \$370 to get an Icom hat. The hat was free, but the IC-208H was a different story.

A new radio purchase of that magnitude required a celebration of sorts. I went across the highway to El Azteca for lunch.

Back at the hamfest, I actually hung out in the cafeteria, checking my work email and Facebook. I work from home taking calls from people needing help installing student versions of drafting and animation software. Saturday is usually my "money day," so I told the main office to have the callers send emails instead of calling.

I spent the last hour of the hamfest hanging out around the TRO and WCARC tables. Even though I have a history of winning things in drawings at ham radio events, I didn't score any extra loot this time. Oh well, the next Green Country Hamfest is only 11 months away!

RULES CHANGE - MERLIN GRIFFIN

We do have a rules change: The FCC at the ARRL's formal request changed the power limitations for amateur's using the spread spectrum mode. Instead of requiring "automatic power control, they now just limit power to 10 watts PEP Output. Since very few us use spread spectrum, at least on the amateur bands, about the main effect on most folks would be that it invalidates one possible question on the Extra class exam.

73 DE WB5OSM

MATCH UP:

- QSM
- QTR
- QRV

• Are you Ready? or I am Ready.

• What is the correct time? or
The correct time is ____ .

• Shall I repeat? or
Repeat the last message you sent.



For more information about the TRO visit www.tulсахamradio.org

If you would like more information about the **Tulsa Repeater Organization** or have questions about articles in the newsletter, please contact us by e-mail at wa5lvt@tulсахamradio.net or write to:

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