



THE SIGNAL



Official Newsletter of the
Tulsa Repeater Organization



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March, 2024

“Covering Tulsa through the air”

PREZ SAYZ:

Well, spring is just around the corner. A few things are starting to happen. Green Country Ham fest is Friday April 12 from 4:00 to 9:00 and Saturday April 13 from 8:00 to 3:00. If you are new to ham radio you must attend this. They will have new and used ham radios and just about anything you might need to get started in ham radio. The club will be looking for a few good hams to man the table for a few hours. If you're interested in helping call or email me. The next club meeting will be March 26 at 7:00 come early(6:00) if you want to eat with some of us. The place is Freeway Cafe at 5849 S 49th W Ave, Tulsa. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

TRO President
Paul Young - KE5EHM

TRO MEMEBRSHIP DUES:

TRO annual membership dues are due in March. Regular - \$25.00 and Family - \$30.00

Mail To: Tulsa Repeater Organization
P. O. Box 1422
TULSA, OK 74101

You can make payment using PayPal. If you have a PayPal account, sign in to your account, select the Send and Request feature, then select Pay for Goods or Services. The system will ask for an email. Use wa5lvt@tulsahamradio.org. Then set the amount to \$25.00 US, add the description, “2024 TRO Membership Dues for < your name & callsign >,” designate the checking account or debit/credit card you wish to use, and submit. Both you and myself will receive confirmation emails when the payment has been processed.

GREEN COUNTRY HAMFEST APRIL 12TH & 13TH, 2024:

Green Country Hamfest will be April 12 & 13, 2024 at Claremore Expo Center 400 Veterans Parkway. VE testing will be held at the Rogers County Building on the far NW corner of the Expo Parking Lot directly across from El Azteca Mexican Restaurant.

Hamfest hours are Flea Market setup starts at 1200 hrs on Friday the 12th, public hours are from 16:00 to 21:00 on Friday, and flea market set up on Saturday the 13th starts at 07:00 and public hours start at 08:00. The Hamfest will end by 15:00 on Saturday. Admission is \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Flea Market tables are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door.

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We are missing some commercial vendors this year. The Suspender Guy said he had a schedule conflict. The Wireman probably won't make it because of health issues. WBOW missed last year due to health issues and said their other business, "Tarheel Antennas", got too far behind and they can't find anyone to help with production, so they are not going to as many hamfests this year while they fill orders. We do have a couple of new vendors, Ham Threads similar to merchandise handled by the Suspender Guy and an embroidery company, Stitching Creations by Vonnie, that will make custom ball caps. They won't bring their machine to the show, but there is a link on the GCHF web-site where you can place your order in advance and they will bring it to the show. You can also place your order at the show and they will ship it to you.

On-line registration is open now until March 31. Go to our website greencountryhamfest.org
73 DE WB5OSM

2024 Events:

It's almost event season. The first event will be Tour de Tulsa (pending club approvals) on Saturday, May 4.

This year we will have new opportunities to participate as we provide communications and safety support.

The "ride-along" from last year was a great success. If you are considering volunteering for one of our events, join us as a ride-along. You will be paired up with a seasoned volunteer for the day and will get a firsthand look at how we support the event. More information about our events will be presented at club meetings and on our various weekly nets.

Please consider joining us this year.

Paul Teel - WB5ANX
ARES EC, Tulsa County

MINUTES OF 02/27/2024 TRO MEETING:

Secretary report - General Meeting - 2/27/24

12 Members present - Paul Young, President, presiding

Election of officers for 2024-25: Slate of currently serving officers was advanced by the Nominating Committee for re-election to current positions. The slate motion was moved by Remell & seconded by Don. All present voted in favor - MOTION PASSED

Treasurer report from The Signal was moved for approval by Don & seconded by Mike - MOTION PASSED

Secretary report from The Signal was moved for approval by Steve & seconded by Kenny - MOTION PASSED

Volunteers to man the TRO booth at the hamfest were requested - contact Paul Young for details.

Motion to adjourn by Steve & seconded by Don - APPROVED

Respectfully submitted -
Bart Pickens - N5TWB
TRO Secretary

TRO TREASURY REPORT OF 02/24/24:

Total TRO Accounts Beginning Balance	\$6519.78
Checking Beginning Balance	\$2895.34
03/19 3306 Reasor’s for 60 US postage stamps for mailing annual dues notices	-\$40.80
03/19 Deposit 4 member renewals	+\$100.00
03/20 3307 Steve Miller for reimbursement of credit card charge for TRO Liability Insurance to ARRL	-\$200.00
Checking Balance	\$2754.54
PayPal Beginning Balance	\$41.82
No activity	
PayPal Ending Balance	\$41.82
Cash Beginning Balance	\$100.00
Cash Ending Balance	\$100.00
Savings Beginning Balance	\$3482.62
02/09 Service Charge	-2.00
02/29 Interest Earned	+0.55
Ending Savings Account Balance	\$3481.17
Total TRO Account Balance	\$6377.53

Respectfully Submitted by Steve Miller – AA5V 03/22/2024

ENGINEERING REPORT:

No changes to any of the repeaters.

REPEATER STATUS

146.805 (-) PL 88.5 ? ? ? ? – Down
146.880 (-) PL 88.5 (CityPlex), 82.5 (Skiatook) or 141.3
(Keetonville receiver) 81st & Lewis – Working
146.940 (-) PL 88.5 Sun Building, 9th & Detroit – Working
927.700 (-25 MHz) (902.7) CityPlex - Working

Metro Link:
444.1 (+) PL 88.5 Skyline East 41st & Skelly Drive – Working
444.725 (+) PL 88.5 GRDA tower NW of Skiatook – Working
444.950 (+) PL 88.5 ? ? ? ? – Down

TRO Scheduled Activities:

March 26, 2024 Tuesday 1900 TRO Monthly Meeting at Freeway Cafe
5849 South 49th West Avenue. Come early to have supper.

April 12 & 13, 2024 Friday & Saturday Green Country Hamfest
Claremore Expo 4 to 9 PM Friday and 8 AM to 3 PM Saturday

April 23, 2024 Tuesday 1900 TRO Monthly Meeting at Freeway Cafe
5849 South 49th West Avenue. Come early to have supper.

May 18, 2024 Saturday 0800 Copland Classic Bike Ride
6066 East 66th Street North. Communications support 1 NC & 3 SAG's

May 28, 2024 Tuesday 1900 TRO Monthly Meeting at Freeway Cafe
5849 South 49th West Avenue. Come early to have supper.



ARES Net

Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM
1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursdays on the 145.11 MHz repeater
4th and if there is a 5th Thursday use the
TARC Super Link System 443.850 MHz PL 88.5 Hz

From Our TRO Membership Chairman:

To open, I Would like to thank everyone for your support of Ham Radio. What a Hobby has become! With that said, I have to say we learned some things in the last month. Our communication systems are quite vulnerable. Just a software glitch caused cell phone and internet outages across our great country. The thing about it was, it kind of caught everyone off guard, but, not us HAMS. Or did it? So what we were reminded off, stick to the basics, good old grass root stuff, throw a wire in a tree set up an HF rig and get away from the internet. Cell towers fail, we've known that. Same for those machines and link systems. They are great but always be ready for them to not be available. They can hold out for a while but eventually they go down to. Everyone in your family should become a licensed HAM and you should take some time to get them talking. Now we are increasing membership and giving your family a backup system to fall back on.

Don't forget the old ways. Remember the foundation of HAM Radio and what it was built on. The backbone of grassroots talk-en. Even brush up on your code. It cuts through anything and can be very useful when needed. The thing is this look at your rig and think about what you can do with no cell tower, internet and yes that repeater machine to fall back on. Now, you're getting into the fun stuff, the nuts and bolts of HAM Radio. Don't become complacent because when the metal meets the meat what you have and what you know is where you will be. Train as you fight and fight as you have trained. These are strange times we find ourselves in, nothing is set in stone and all can go down quickly, either by natural occorance, tornado, flood, wind, and winter events, that kind of stuff. Now we must consider things like software glitches, sabotage, hacking, and all-out attacks on our infrastructure. We've got unfriendly people in the wire now, so take the blinders off and be ready when the time comes to get back to the foundation of HAM Radio Communication. Stay safe, stay aware, and stay informed. Strength comes through knowledge and admitting there could be a problem gets us closer to overcoming it. Get on the air! and get ready ... 73.

TRO Membership Chair,
Tom Stroud - KD5OPH
OK ARES DEC Dist 8

An Interesting Story or Two:

It seems that broadcast radio stations these days are becoming more of a target for thieves. Right here in the Tulsa Metro area a few years ago KRMG AM was the target of a copper thief at their transmitter site near Mannford. The station learned they were off the air, even though the weather was good, one afternoon. Their engineer went to the transmitter site to find the power substation had been broken into, and he and Creek County Sherriff's deputies found the body of the would-be thief. He was electrocuted by the high voltage equipment he was messing with.

Just last month KITX 95.5 FM 50KW ERP in Hugo Oklahoma was targeted by copper thieves, who managed to destroy the 440 ft tower. The station owner said the thieves probably got away with only about \$100 worth of copper, but did around a half million dollars' worth of damage to the facility. Since this is a commercial station, I believe they were insured.

An Interesting Story or Two: - continued

Just a few days ago a small AM station in Alabama WJLX 1240 kHz 1 KW in Jasper, Al went off the air unexpectedly. They went to investigate the reason and found the tower was completely missing. Along with the transmitter and some associated equipment. Notice, I didn't say down or damaged the whole thing just vanished without a trace, so far. The station also transmitted their oldies format on a FM translator and sought approval from the FCC to just transmit on the FM side only while they decide what to do about the AM station, but the FCC turned them down. The FCC only allows translator stations to rebroadcast a full-service parent radio station. Although there was a translator station here in Tulsa coming off the STL tower for Fox 23 at 27th and Memorial that I never was really sure what or where the main station. Nobody knows what the motive was for stealing the transmitter and tower from this station. Even more mysterious is how all this equipment was taken down unnoticed.

However, these days usually there is no engineer on the transmitter site most of the time. The FCC no longer requires it. Many smaller stations don't even have a full-time engineer. They have a contract engineer that takes care of a number of stations in an area, and they call him when needed. So much of the time broadcast transmitter sites set out in remote areas and are unattended much of the time. A 1 KW AM transmitter these days is most likely solid state and is about the same size as a legal limit ham amplifier. Cut the feed-line and it's easy to transport. Some people in the area now think the owner stole the tower himself. I noticed on their website that they promote the FM translator more than the AM station. Even though it's only 250W ERP. The theory being the AM transmitter was more of a financial liability than an asset. It eats maybe 1500 watts or a little over around the clock and doesn't produce much revenue. So, he sells the tower for scrap, and maybe finds someone in the market for a 1 KW AM transmitter. It could easily be tuned up on 160 M for CW or AM. The owner said they had no insurance on the transmitter site and the idea that he stole his own tower and transmitter was ridiculous.

Insurance for a small AM station might be too expensive and hiring security guards even more so. They may want to start investing in surveillance cameras.

73 DE WB5OSM

CLUB MEETINGS

Tulsa Repeater Organization

Fourth Tuesday of the month at 1900 (7PM) except June (Field Day) and December (Christmas).
Meetings are held at Freeway Cafe at 5849 South 49th West Avenue in Tulsa.
If you plan on eating be there 30 minutes to an hour early.

Tulsa Amateur Radio Club

Third Tuesday of the month 1900 (7PM)
Meetings are held at Tulsa University Keplinger Hall Room 3140 (west of Harvard & 5th Street)

Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club

First Monday of the month (except for holidays) 1900 (7 PM)
Community Recreation Center, 1500 South Main, Broken Arrow

Rogers County Wireless Association

Second Saturday of every month at 0800 (8 AM)
Check the RCWA website at www.rcwa.org for meeting information.

VE TEST SESSIONS *WALK-INS ARE WELCOME AT ALL SESSIONS!*

Check with the contact for each testing session for their plans.

Tulsa Repeater Organization

Third Thursday of odd-numbered months, 1900 (7 PM)
American Red Cross 10151 E 11th (11th & US 169) Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128
Contact: Merlin Griffin WB5OSM at WB5OSM@hotmail.com or (918)520-7668 - leave message

Broken Arrow Emergency Management

First Saturday of odd-numbered months - 0900 to 1100 (9:00 to 11 AM)
Broken Arrow Public Service Complex 1001 N 6th Street Broken Arrow OK 74012
Contact: Loyd Beeson, AE5MM at ae5mm@arrl.net or (918)638-2393 (text msg or voice)

Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club

Second Saturday of even-numbered months at 0930 (9:30 AM)
Broken Arrow Public Service Complex 1001 N 6th Street Broken Arrow OK 74012
Contact: Don Doyle AC5II at AC5II@arrl.net or (918)379-0962

Rogers County Wireless Association (New session in Owasso)

First Saturday of each quarter at 0900 (9:00 AM)
Trinity House, 9210 N Garnett, Owasso OK 74055
Contact: Dustin Dye, AB5C at contact@rcwa.org or (918)734-0869

MAKING CONTACT – How To Find Out More About The Tulsa Repeater Organization

Our Website: www.tulsahamradio.org

Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TulsaRepeaterOrganization/>

Our Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TulsaRepeaters>

TRO OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Paul Young	KE5EHM	918.637.8414	ke5ehm@tulsahamradio.org
Vice-President	Don Ferry	N5DGF	918.607.3292	n5dgm@tulsahamradio.org
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Treasurer	Steve Miller	AA5V	918.381.8574	aa5v@tulsahamradio.org
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Public Relations	OPEN			
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Newsletter Editor	Steve Miller	AA5V		aa5v@tulsahamradio.org

Want more information about the Tulsa Repeater Organization or have questions about articles in the newsletter? Contact us at email address wa5lvt@tulsahamradio.org or write to:

**Tulsa Repeater Organization
P.O. Box 1422
TULSA, OK 74101-1422**

Mail to: