



Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

DETARC, Inc.
Lufkin, TX

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Roger K0YY Editor,
k0yy@arrl.net

Meeting Highlights:

Secretary RM K5AGE

Our Christmas Party/December meeting at the Golden Corral on December 15th was a fun event for all. Good friends, good food, and good cheer. It was good to see everyone.

President's Comments:

Steve KG5ODZ, kg5odz@arrl.net



I just wanted to take the time to thank everyone in DETARC for electing me as an officer.

As a relatively new HAM, I was very excited to have an active area club, like DETARC, to join and participate in. You guys have been very welcoming and I have enjoyed getting to know you.

With the recent addition of our new ARES Communications Room and use of the meeting room at the old Armory, we have lots of wonderful opportunity (and room) to grow, have fun, and contribute back to our community, which has been very supportive and generous to us.

I want to make sure that anything and everything we do together, as a group, advances our knowledge of amateur radio, and most importantly, our enjoyment of this exciting hobby.

Moving forward, please don't hesitate to contact either myself, or any of the other officers with any feedback, topics, or ideas that you might have to help us make this happen.

Hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season!

Regards and 73 to all,

Steve Capp, KG5ODZ, President, DETARC

Club Officers: President- Steve KG5ODZ, Vice President/Repeater Trustee- Mike WD5EFY, Secretary- RM K5AGE, Treasurer- Randy N5CRW.

DETARC Club Web Page: www.detarc.net

DETARC Email Reflector: To join send an email request to: detarc@detarc.net

DETARC Meeting Times/Location: Fourth Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the old armory on Tulane Drive, across from Kiwanis Park.

DETARC/ARES Net: 146.940 MHz-600, 141.3 CTCSS. Every Tuesday at 8 PM, alternates 147.360+600 MHz, 141.3 CTCSS, or 146.42 Simplex.

ARES Wide Area Net: The third Monday at 8:30 PM on the 94 repeater. The 94 repeater is linked to several regional repeaters for this wide area net.

Texas ARES HF Net: Mondays 7:30 PM, 3.873 MHz.

DETARC Repeaters: 146.940 MHz-600, 141.3 CTCSS, high level repeater with emergency linking to most regional repeaters. 147.360+600, 141.3 CTCSS, local coverage. 444.975+5 MHz, CTCSS 107.2 local coverage with an Echolink node and an Allstar link node. Allstar Sysop- Kris K5KRK. K5KRK-R, node # 27272.

See page 4 for additional repeater information.



DETARC News:



Did you know: that the DETARC 440 repeater on 444.975+5, CTCSS 107.3 has an Echolink node and an Allstar link to 1600 repeaters world-wide? The Allstar link system is available to DETARC members who have received training on its use. See K0YY, WD5EFY, KB8QWN, N5CRW, or K5KRK for training and to sign the Allstar User List.

DETARC/ARES upcoming projects: An ARES Comm. Room work project is coming soon at the old armory. Contact K0YY, KB8QWN, or WD5EFY if you would like to help.

Upcoming Contests/Events:

ARRL Straight Key Night, Dec 31--Jan 1.

ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 7

North American QSO Party, SSB, Jan 21

Orange Hamfest, Saturday February 25th, 2017, Orange County Convention Center, 7:30 AM to 2 PM, 11475 FM 1442, Orange, TX.

http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20NFO/hamfest%20info.htm

ARRL State Convention: March 24 & 25, 2017
Rosenberg, TX, County Fairgrounds. See the ARRL paragraph for more details. >>>

For further details on contests/special events:
www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) Roger K0YY, Emergency Coordinator (EC).

k0yy@arrl.net

Come Join Us!

ARES has three portable repeaters on 441.350, 441.375, and 444.975 MHz. All portable repeaters are +5 MHz offset and require a CTCSS tone of 141.3 Hz. Thanks to Mike WD5EFY and Steve KB8QWN for the use of their equipment. ARES members should have these frequencies and all regional repeaters programmed into their radios.

We have several ARES Operating Procedures out on the ARES Page of the DETARC web site. Check them out at: www.detarc.net, ARES Forms Page.

Do you have your ARES Individual Training Plan filled out as completely as possible? What do you need to accomplish to complete it? The Individual Plans are designed to help you track your level of training. The Plans are available at ARES meetings from the EC or for downloading on the ARES Forms Page at www.detarc.net.

To join the ARES email reflector, send an email request to ares@detarc.net.

Editor's Notes:

If you have an idea for the Newsletter or a question about Ham Radio of general interest to the members, drop a line to the editor at k0yy@arrl.net. We'll try to include the topic or answer the question in a future Newsletter.

ARRL News:

The National Ham Organization.

ARRL State Convention March 24 & 25th at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, TX. Presented by the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.

See <http://houstonhamfest.org/> for more info.

Interested in going? Speak up, maybe a group will get together from Lufkin.

Ham Question of The Month:

What is the term used to describe the impedance at the feed point of an antenna? Answer at the next meeting.

TECH TALK:

We recently had a presentation on APRS at our DETARC meeting. Here is additional information on the voice alert capability in APRS.

APRS Voice Alert

--Thanks to Mike KG5ODX

Voice Alert is quite simply setting your APRS rig to PL tone squelch 100.0 Hz (for North America) with the volume turned up to mid-range.

This is particularly easy on APRS-enabled rigs since they can mute the speaker with a PL tone squelch while still receiving packets. Other rigs which use the 6-pin mini-din packet connector are also suitable for this mode because they allow the TNC to connect to the radio ahead of the PL tone decoder. The speaker jack of the radio is not a suitable connection for two reasons:

1. The audio will not be heard because a plug is plugged into the speaker jack
2. The PL tone decoder will prevent the TNC from decoding most packets.

No digipeater should ever transmit a 100.0hz PL tone!

Only stations with a live operator present should transmit a PL tone of 100.0hz

The concept is simple. If there is an operator present at an APRS station, the radio should transmit a 100.0 Hz PL tone with each packet. Any other Voice Alert APRS station within simplex range will hear the packet and know that they are within range of another station. If one wishes to talk to the other, he simply calls on the APRS frequency using the PL tone. The

idea here is to keep it short – just state the person’s call sign and ask them to QSY to a voice frequency. Keep in mind that most digipeaters do not stand down for non-packet signals, so it is likely that any voice traffic on the APRS frequency will end up doubling with other packets.

What makes Voice Alert so intriguing is that it allows a traveler to conveniently listen for other live stations. Can you imagine calling CQ every minute on 146.52 while traveling? With the voice alert system, your APRS station’s normal position beacon becomes a “sonar ping” to other nearby people. It has also been suggested that if a non-standard PL tone were to be used, it would be like a private voice alert.

Non-standard PL tones have also been used on various digipeaters to verify local coverage areas. The trick here is to put a different PL tone on each of the local digipeaters and tune your PL tone squelch to one of them as you travel around town. You’ll hear every packet the digipeater transmits and can assess the signal quality without having to take your eyes off the road.

No APRS Gear?

Tune your 2 meter FM transceiver to 144.390 MHz and configure encode and decode CTCSS 100 Hz. When APRS stations configured with voice alert are near, their packets will be passed to the radio’s speaker, letting you know that someone is in range and probably listening. You won’t know their call sign, but give a general CQ, or “calling APRS Voice Alert Stations” on the frequency to make contact, then change to another simplex frequency.

REPEATER NOTES & CLUB HISTORY

--Mike WD5EFY, Repeater Trustee

I think a bit of background and history of the Club's repeaters might be in order! One of the charter members of our club, Dr. Robert "Bob" Kurth, M.D. purchased a 'brand new' Motorola MSR2000 VHF repeater from the factory for use in our area. It was manufactured and tuned from the factory on 146.34 / 94 MHz. If I recall correctly he installed it on a small tower at his home near downtown Lufkin. This repeater was purchased in the mid to late '70's and is STILL in use as our Club 34/94 repeater!

Sometime later he purchased another repeater from Motorola (Micor CompaStation) for more private use by him and a few of his friends in the area. This repeater came from the factory on 444.975 MHz. It also is STILL in use and is installed in downtown Lufkin at about 85 feet. Thanks to Kris, K5KRK, this repeater has EchoLink and AllStar nodes available!

After Bob's death, the 34/94 repeater continued service in several locations around this area but the UHF repeater was taken off the air and put in storage. Several years ago, we received a phone call from Bob's widow Sara and she wished to formally donate both repeaters to the Club. The Club held a formal acceptance meeting with her as the guest of honor. She gave a wonderful speech about Bob, the history of the Club, and the two repeaters. Pictures were taken, she was given a bouquet of flowers and the Club had two plaques engraved and one was attached to each repeater recognizing the kind donation to the Club from Dr. and Mrs. Kurth.

The Club adopted Bob's call sign in memory of him and his service to the Club. That is where the Club call sign of W5IRP came from.

Scott Curry, KD5THP, SK, and me met one of Sara's nephews at the storage building and dug out the old dirty and dusty UHF repeater. With dummy load in place on the transmitter and fearful of an explosion when it was plugged into the AC outlet, we held our ears as it came to life! Only one capacitor in the power supply had to be replaced and it is still very functional and in service today!

The Club asked the Texas VHF-FM Society for the original UHF frequency pair and luckily it was still available so we were able to just "plug and play" this piece of history!

I'll continue the history lesson in the next issue but for now all the Club repeaters are operational, except for the 444.575 repeater. It needs some programming changes and that is in progress. Updates to come in later issues as well as updates on the Wide-Area linking system currently under development.

Club Repeaters and Equipment:

146.34/94 MHz, Negative offset, CTCSS 141.3 Hz transmit and receive (Lufkin)

147.36/96 MHz, Positive offset, CTCSS 107.2 Hz (Lufkin)

146.38/98 MHz, Negative offset, CTCSS 141.3 Hz transmit and receive (located in Alto)

444.575 MHz, Positive offset, CTCSS 107.2 Hz (Lufkin) (Temporarily off the air)

444.975 MHz, Positive offset, CTCSS 107.2 Hz (Lufkin)

DETARC also supports APRS and WinLink.

APRS Digipeater and Igate 144.390 MHz (Lufkin)

WinLink RMS node 145.050 MHz (Lufkin)
(Packet Radio)

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017 from your Club/ARES Officers and Newsletter Editor!

60 years in Ham Radio and still loving it!
73, Roger K0YY, Editor,
Licensed as KN0PYM in 1957 in Minnesota.