



**DETARC, Inc.**  
Lufkin, TX

**Deep East Texas  
Amateur Radio Club**

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Roger K0YY Editor,  
[k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net)

## 1. DETARC INFORMATION

**Club Officers:** President- Steve KG5ODZ  
[kg5odz@arrl.net](mailto:kg5odz@arrl.net), Vice President/Repeater Trustee-  
Mike WD5EFY, Secretary- RM K5AGE, Treasurer-  
Randy N5CRW.

**Club Web Page:** [www.detarc.net](http://www.detarc.net)

**Club Email Reflector:** Join the reflector to receive  
Club information. To join send an email request to:  
[detarc-join@detarc.net](mailto:detarc-join@detarc.net)

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

**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.

For additional information on DETARC/ARES see  
the web site at [www.detarc.net](http://www.detarc.net)

### DETARC/ARES News:



**NOTE: The November/December meetings  
are joint with Skywarn. November meeting  
is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at old  
armory 7 PM. December Christmas Party at  
Golden Corral December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM. Pay  
as you go. Mark your calendars now!**

Gary KI5LR is making 2/440 J pole antennas for  
sale. See his ad in the ad section towards the end.

## SECRETARY MEETING MINUTES

### October DETARC Meeting

Start: 7:27pm October 26, 2017

Announcements: Saltgrass link is kind of down, but  
a fix is in the works

September Minutes Read: *Motion Approved*

Treasury Report: -\$275.25 purchased link radios  
\$285.29 *Motion Approved*

Old Business: Bylaws were revised; a vote needs  
to be made to accept. Motion made, second, open  
vote in favor unanimous. Revised bylaws passed.  
Feedback on the JOTA – We sent many invites  
ahead of time to the scouts, we put our best effort  
forward trying to make it happen and it seems there  
was a breakdown in the BSA chain of  
communication. Next year we have plans to try a  
different angle. Handgun raffle – Intel is being  
gathered, it is looking promising. Megan has a  
contact to draw information on how to do one. Alto  
link gear was donated to go forward with the plans.

New Business: Interested in the Christmas eat n  
meeting. YES. Motion to combine November  
Skywarn and DETARC 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm @ Armory and  
changing December meeting to the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm  
GoCo. Motion to – Second, Unanimous. Pass  
Motion to purchase Alto gear. Second, Unanimous  
pass. We have to appoint a group for nominating  
committee for officers (Megan - Mike appointed)  
Officers Volunteering - Rm volunteered to be  
Secretary – Sitting president Steve will not  
relinquish his throne. Vice President Mike will step  
down.

Megan makes motion to give Andy a two-year  
membership for his generosity to this club. Second,  
Unanimous pass.

Door Prize (\$243 in the pot as it stands) Antenna  
book to KE5ADC! Congratulations

Adjourned 8:15pm  
Presentation – Mike Fox Hunting 101!  
--Respectfully submitted RM K5AGE Secretary

**Door Prizes:** The Club meetings have door prizes thanks to Gary KI5LR's good efforts.

The following book and special tape measure were the October Door Prize won by Dale KE5ADC congratulations.

**Simple and Fun Antennas & Komelon  
SL2825 Self Lock 25-Foot Inch/Engineer  
Scale Power Tape.**

The December prize is a surprise. The next Quarterly prize will be another Kenwood TM-281 VHF mobile radio at the Christmas Party.  
--Gary KI5LR

## DETARC/ARES Projects/Events:

**FOX HUNT Presentation:** Mike WD5EFY gave a very interesting presentation at this meeting on Fox Hunting, that is using direction finding techniques to find a hidden transmitter. Roger K0YY demonstrated using a handheld with a 2-meter beam, and attenuator switch block to pin point a hidden transmitter. Club members indicated considerable interest in a future Fox Hunt. Speak up if you interested too.

## **2. Upcoming Ham Radio Contests/Special Events:**



### **UPCOMING CONTESTS:**

28-29 Oct CQ Worldwide Contest SSB  
4-6 Nov ARRL [Nov. Sweepstakes – CW](#)  
18-20 Nov ARRL [Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone](#)  
25-26 Nov CQ Worldwide Contest, CW

### **SELECT HAM SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**11/04/2017 Military-Amateur Radio  
Interoperability Exercise**, Nov 4-Nov 5, 1300Z-  
2359Z, WD8DBY, Salado, TX

**11/08/2017 Veterans Day 2017 Nov 8-Nov 13,  
0000Z-2359Z, N5VET**, Cleburne, TX.

### **UPCOMING HAMFESTS:**

03/17/2018 Swapfest  
Location: Georgetown, TX  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Williamson County Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://wcarc.com>

### **For further details on Contests/Special Events/Hamfests see:**

[www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/)

[www.arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

[www.arrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)

[http://www.cq-amateur-  
radio.com/cq\\_contests/cq\\_annual\\_contest\\_calendar/  
cq\\_annual\\_contest\\_calendar.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html)

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/>

[http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/Location.state:  
TX](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/Location.state:TX)

## **3. AMATEUR RADIO**

### **EMERGENCY SERVICE® (ARES)**

Mike WD5EFY, South Texas Section, District 2  
Emergency Coordinator (DEC) (Angelina &  
Surrounding Counties).



Everyone needs to continue to be in ready/standby mode as we enter the second peak of the year for severe weather.

Your "Go-Bags" should always be at the ready as well for whatever may present itself. You never know what may happen that would cause a callout for communications support! We weren't called out but just this month the 911 system went down for this county and two other surrounding counties! Lufkin dispatchers had to go to Cherokee county to take 911 calls for this area.

Be ready! --Mike WD5EFY

ARES monthly Wide-Area Net Remember the Wide Area Net is held monthly on the third Monday night on the 94 and other participating repeaters at 2030 hours local time. Multiple Counties participate.

To join our ARES email reflector, send an email request to [ares-join@detarc.net](mailto:ares-join@detarc.net).

## 4. OPERATING:



### Propagation with JT65, JT9, and FT8

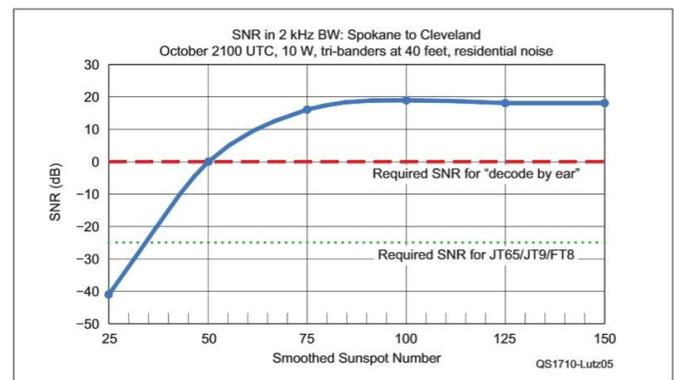
--RM K5AGE, Club Secretary

I have been on the JT65 bandwagon for a few months now, but I am just now starting to understand how and why it works so well. One reason I knew right from the beginning was because of the ability to "hear" signals well below the noise.

Thanks to the QST article in the October 2017 edition, I have learned a bit more about propagation with these modes. The article does a great job of explaining how you can apply that advantage to a neat propagation mode. "Above-the-MUF" propagation (Editor's note: MUF = Max Useable Frequency). A readable signal is still present even when the MUF is below the operating frequency. I will summarize how these modes allow you to capitalize on this. Propagation does not abruptly cut off when the MUF is lower than the operating frequency.

On the QST provided predicted signal strength graph below (from the article), where the X axis is the smoothed sunspot number, and the Y axis is the SNR (Editor's note: SNR = Signal to Noise Ratio), there is a gradual radius of signal loss/strength as the X axis goes from 0 sunspots (25 in this graph) to about 100 sunspots. This graph represents "Above-the-MUF" signals and how we can extend our ability to make contacts when working above-the-MUF". The 10-meter band might be "dead" if you look at the MUF but in reality, it is still alive if we have the means to hear deeper. My next goal is to make a contact on a frequency "Above-the-MUF".

--RM K5AGE



(From Oct. QST Article on MUF and digital modes)

## 5. REPEATER NOTES:

--Mike WD5EFY, Trustee



All repeaters with the exception of the Saltgrass machine are continuing to perform fine. It was brought to my attention that the 444.425 repeater was down so I went and checked on it. At the site, it seemed to be working just fine so I rebooted the controller and left. I got to the loop a couple of miles away and tried it again and it was down! Perplexed I went back and all was fine... hmmm.

Not having a working wattmeter, I put out a request for a Bird 43 or equivalent and got several offers (thanks Jerry, K5JLW and Roger, K0YY!) With

Rich, KB5EDR acting as liaison and drop off point at his office, I picked up Jerry's Bird and did some further checking and determined that the transmitter is out on the repeater so we'll have to wait on Steve, N5ZUA, to come to the rescue.

When I went to check on the Saltgrass repeater, I noticed very quickly that the shack air conditioner is also out. It is very hot inside! I contacted our liaison with the repeater site, Steve, KB8QWN, who contacted the owners to get it checked out and repaired. Hopefully this will happen very soon before we have further problems.

Thanks to everyone who plays a part in helping keep everything going and on the air!!

73, --Mike, WD5EFY, Repeater System Trustee and maintenance technician.

## 6. ARRL NEWS:



### "Force of 50" Volunteers' Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Mission Ends

--ARRL Letter 10/19/2017

The 22 "Force of 50" radio amateurs who deployed to Puerto Rico earlier this month as American Red Cross volunteers have ended their mission and will be back on the US mainland by week's end. They had been in Puerto Rico for about 3 weeks.

"The Force of 50 volunteers demonstrated an extraordinary range of skills possessed by this accomplished team," said ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. "There was no task that they wouldn't tackle. It also demonstrated the generosity of these volunteers, who not only performed their roles as communicators, but also engaged the population with their many acts of personal kindness."

Val Hotzfeld, NV9L, who filed situation reports documenting the team's activities, said the

volunteers accomplished everything they went to Puerto Rico to do, "and then some." She said that the Red Cross felt they had exceeded all expectations.

"We opened a lot of people's eyes when we started going to the ESF-2 communications task force meetings. They had no idea of our capabilities," Hotzfeld told ARRL. "When they heard what we'd accomplished, we were swarmed; everybody was wanting us."

Hotzfeld said the volunteers' initial mission was to provide a way to gather outbound health and welfare messages and put them into the Red Cross's Safe and Well System using *Winlink*. However, the mission changed once they were on the ground, when they discovered the needs were much greater.

"No one had any communications, so the mission morphed to communications," she said. "But, we did both." She said the Red Cross recognized the value of ensuring communication for hospitals, and other volunteers handled Safe and Well messages.



**Amateur Radio volunteer Val Hotzfeld, NV9L. She is now back home.**

She said the volunteers possessed a wide range of talents, from medical to mechanical, not just communications. For example, Andy Anderson, KE0AYJ, set up the helicopter landing pad at Guajataca Dam, Hotzfeld said, and provided communication where there was none.

Ten [SHARES](#) (Shared Resources) HF Radio Program operators will replace the Amateur Radio volunteers who had worked on behalf of the Red Cross. These SHARES operators are federal employees who happen to be radio amateurs and volunteered for the duty in Puerto Rico. Hotzfeld said they will be stationed in four different zones, with two operators at headquarters in the San Juan Convention Center. "The hospitals did not want us to leave," Hotzfeld said. "They were begging us to stay." She noted, though, that the hospitals also have access to satellite telephones.

"I was so proud of our guys," Hotzfeld said in summary. "They were rock stars."

--ARRL Letter, Oct 19, 2017



## 7. FOR SALE/WANTED:

Do you have something to sell or are you looking for a Ham related item? Place a free ad by sending ads to [k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net). (Kilo Zero Yankee Yankee).

### Ad Rules:

1. Ham related only
2. DETARC/ARES Members receive priority.
3. Include asking price, name, call, and email address or phone number—**this is required for all ads**. You give your permission to publish your email address and/or phone number by submitting an ad.
4. Be specific, short & concise. Use brand and model numbers if available. State condition if appropriate- poor/fair/good/excellent, or as is.
5. Newsletter Editor determines what is/isn't appropriate and may edit ads to fit or limit the number of ads.
6. Be aware that the Newsletter is shared among many of the regions Hams.
7. This is on a trial basis to see how it works.
8. **Disclaimer: DETARC and the Newsletter Editor are not a party to or responsible for transactions**

between individuals. Strongly recommend buyers thoroughly check purchases prior to completing any transaction. Buyers may want to check prices for similar items on [www.eham.com](http://www.eham.com) or [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com).

9. The cutoff date to receive ads is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the monthly meetings. The next month's Newsletter is published immediately after the DETARC/ARES monthly meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. For example: to place an ad in the May Newsletter, your ad must arrive by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Ham Radio Ads:

**FOR SALE:** New Possum J270 Dual-band 2/440 J pole base/portable antennas \$40 each, \$10 discount for seniors. 1 ½ inch mount. Gary KI5LR. [gary.antley@consolidated.com](mailto:gary.antley@consolidated.com)

**FOR SALE:** 50' 12ga extension cord for sale \$20.00. \$65.00 at Lowes. Randy N5CRW [scuba2@banditt.com](mailto:scuba2@banditt.com)

**FOR SALE:** Rohn BX-64, 64-foot medium duty free standing tower. Rotor platform in top section. 8 8-foot sections, excellent shape, never been in the air. Hardware package (bolts/nuts) not included. Good for 2/440 beam, small 6-meter beam, or dual-band vertical. \$500 cash. Pick up only in Lufkin. Roger K0YY, [k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net)

**WANTED:** Rohn 25 tower sections, 10-foot sections, 4 each in good to excellent condition. Will consider partial trade for above BX-64 tower. Contact Roger K0YY, [k0yy@arrl.net](mailto:k0yy@arrl.net).

## 8. EXTRA TIDBITS:

### SPOTLIGHT ON HAM PROGRAMS:

#### Us Islands on The Air (USIOTA)

US Islands on The Air website [www.usislands.org](http://www.usislands.org)  
Note: Different from International IOTA program.