

DETARC, Inc.
Lufkin, TX



Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

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Roger K0YY Editor,
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1. DETARC INFORMATION

Outgoing 2017 Club Officers:

President- Steve KG5ODZ kg5odz@arrl.net, Vice
President/Repeater Trustee- Mike WD5EFY,
Secretary- RM K5AGE, Treasurer- Randy N5CRW.

Thank you for your service to our Club!

Members, be sure and thank our outgoing Club officers for their service.

New Club Officers for 2018: Congratulations!

President- Steve KG5ODZ, Vice President- Randy N5CRW. Secretary- RM K5AGE, Treasurer- Patricia K5HER.

Thank you for stepping up to run our Club!

Club Web Page: www.detarc.net

Club Email Reflector: NOTE: The DETARC & ARES email reflectors are down. Join the "DETARC of Lufkin" Google Group reflector to receive Club information. To join contact Megan KB5MEG.

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

President's Comments:

With Thanksgiving around the corner, I wanted to tell everyone how thankful I am to be a member of DETARC. I am very appreciative of the club, our members, and all of our tenured hams, with their wealth of knowledge, for making this fun, interesting, and for keeping our communication systems up and running! Thank you everyone, for all of your hard work and effort, making this all possible.

I am also truly thankful that the City of Lufkin Emergency Management Coordinator and the Marine Corps League of Lufkin, have graciously allowed us the privilege of sharing "The Armory". Not only is it probably the coolest place in town for our meetings, but it has afforded us the opportunity to build a fully operational, dedicated, DETARC HF/VHF/UHF communications room there, for fun, training, and emergencies.

As we begin the holiday season, please be careful if traveling to spend time with your family, friends and loved ones. Please don't forget, thank them for putting up with us and our hobby.

I hope everyone has a safe, wonderful Thanksgiving.

Cheers and 73! Steve Capp, KG5ODZ

DETARC/ARES News:



NOTE: The December meeting is a joint meeting with Skywarn. The December

Christmas Party is at the Golden Corral December 21st at 6 PM. Pay as you go. Mark your calendars now!

Communications Room HF Antenna:

We have just learned that the large pine tree by the parking lot at the old armory has pine beetles and will likely be cut down by the city. Since one end of our HF wire antenna is anchored in the tree, we will need to come up with another method to secure this antenna.

If you have a solution on how to secure this antenna at 35 feet in the air, please contact the Comm Room Manager Roger K0YY. k0yy@arrl.net

Member News: Gary KI5LR is making 2/440 J pole antennas for sale. See his ad in the for-sale section towards the end of the Newsletter. Good reports from users.

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

The December door prizes are a surprise. Gary just ordered 12 Christmas prizes for our Christmas Party. All he will tell us is one of the items is an antique that is in an original box that is way under value considering what he paid for it.

No member will want to miss the Christmas meeting! Oh, you will want to bring a guest too! As always, one free ticket in the bucket for showing up and you can donate for more insurance.

The next Quarterly prize will be another Kenwood TM-281 VHF 50 W mobile radio given away at the Christmas Party. --Gary KI5LR

DETARC/ARES Projects/Events:

DETARC Christmas Party, December 21st 6 PM, Golden Corral. Pay as you go.

Open Bidding & White Elephant exchange:

There will be an open bidding session on donated equipment and then a White Elephant gift exchange at the Christmas Party. Let a

Club Officer or Gary KI5LR know if you have a piece of equipment to donate. This is a fund-raising event for the Club.

Again, we will have an open **bidding session on donated equipment** and then a **"while elephant" exchange** with inexpensive gifts and gag gifts. Minimum bids may be set on some bid items.

The dollar limit for the white elephant exchange is \$10. We will also have a "steal it from your neighbor" exchange session afterwards with a maximum of two steals per item.

If you want to participate in the white elephant exchange bring a wrapped white elephant or gag gift. \$10 maximum value. --See Megan KB5MEG for additional information.

FOX HUNT: The Club is sponsoring a Fox Hunt on Saturday January 13th. Mark your calendar now. All Hams are welcome to participate. The event will be in Lufkin and the hunt will be on 2 meters. More information to follow. Practice your direction finding (DFing) skills ahead of time. Mike WD5EFY has some literature on DFing if you need it or check Google. Mike WD5EFY and Roger K0YY are coordinating this event.

2. Upcoming Ham Radio Contests/Special Events:



UPCOMING CONTESTS:

The [ARRL Phone Sweepstakes](#) contest is coming up on the weekend of November 18. While the ARRL website has extensive information on this event, you might also want to check out the [Potomac Valley Radio Club's \(PVRC\) "ARRL Sweepstakes"](#) document, which contains links to other documents that could also help.

CQ WW DX Contest CW: November 25-26
Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; Ends 2359 UTC Sunday. OBJECTIVE: For amateurs around the world to contact as many other amateurs in as many CQ zones and countries as possible

ARRL 160 Meter Contest: First full weekend in December

ARRL 10 Meter Contest: Second full weekend in December, 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

Rookie Roundup: Third Sunday of December 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

SELECT HAM SPECIAL EVENTS:

SKYWARN Recognition Day, Saturday, December 2

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 2 from 0000 until 2400 UTC (starts on the evening of Friday, December 1, in US time zones). During the SKYWARN Special Event, hams will set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other radio amateurs around the world.

Participating Amateur Radio stations will exchange a brief description of their current weather with as many NWS-based stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

SRD was developed jointly in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL to celebrate the contributions SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission -- the protection of life and property. Amateur Radio operators, which comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN volunteers, also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency managers, if normal communications become inoperative. [The National Weather Service and ARRL have been formal partners since 1986].

–ARES E-Letter, Nov 15, 2017

11/17/2017 | 14th Annual Pioneer Days & 150th Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail

Nov 17-Nov 19, 1400Z-2200Z, W5JCR, Cleburne, TX. Johnson County Amateur Radio Club. 14.256 14.050 7.256. <https://www.qrz.com/db/w5jcr>

UPCOMING HAMFESTS:

January 19-20 -- [North Texas Section Convention](#), Forest Hill, Texas

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/

www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

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.rsgbcc.org/hf/>

<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).



In addition to watching the weather as we transition into "winter", Texas style, we also have deer season open with many hunters in the woods that are

Hams. Some are local and know and depend on our area repeaters but some travel here to Deep East Texas to deer hunt and may not be up on all the info for the repeaters so please not only keep your radios tuned to the repeaters a bit more than you normally do, but ALSO put your bigger antenna on the radio you can use to monitor 146.520. Who knows, you may be the one to hear a distress call on .52 and possibly help someone or save a life – just by monitoring 52 Simplex. The more people monitoring the better!

--Mike WD5EFY

ARES monthly Wide-Area Net Remember the ARES 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.

4. OPERATING/TRAINING:



Amateur Radio Classes on YouTube.

--Thanks to Army AE5P for forwarding this to the W5NAC Reflector from the Flex Radio Reflector.

“My friend, Dave Ivey, KE4EA, and I (Gary Wise, W4EEY) have been teaching Ham Radio classes in Greer, SC for the past two years. This year we decided to video record the classes and host the videos on the Internet. We have all of our classes for the Technician and General Class up on YouTube now. A link to the channel is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI3DKjqB4OLY2UXm2KqDpwQ>

We will start new Technician and Amateur Extra classes in January 2018 and our plan is to record and post these as well.

We use the ARRL Licensing Manuals as a basis for the classes.

The classes and the videos are free.”

--Army AE5P, W5NAC Reflector

5. REPEATER NOTES:

--Mike WD5EFY, Trustee



The W5IRP 440 repeater is temporarily down. The local Saltgrass repeater is now back up and linked to the Saltgrass System. We extend our appreciation to Steve N5ZUA for keeping up with ALL the Saltgrass systems and putting zillions of miles on his vehicle going to the many widespread Saltgrass sites! Thanks Steve!

Work is also slowly progressing on the Alto Intertie system, but not without some minor hiccups with the UHF link radios. The multi-port link board was ordered and has arrived... progress!

As always, if you notice something quirky with any of our repeater systems, Winlink node, or APRS systems please let me know!

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:



Another Great Event Coming!

Announcing: The 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase. –ARRL Letter Nov. 9th, 2017

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful

2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on *any* band (except 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW).

[Registration](#) in LoTW is free, and it costs nothing to participate. (Editor's note: Typically, it costs to receive awards through LoTW).

Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, VHF, and UHF also use them as a scoring factor.



The Maidenhead grid square system divides up the entire globe into 324

fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude × 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water or are in areas that are uninhabited or difficult to access.

If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an [online calculator](#). Just enter a postal address, ZIP code, or even a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter "W1AW" and the site will return "FN31pr." For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you'll need to know.



A map segment showing part of the EN field of grid squares. Note that some grid squares are very nearly surrounded by water. [Photo courtesy of ICOM America]

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your [monthly total](#). Getting started is simple. Turn on the radio and just call CQ or "CQ Grid Chase" or listen for others doing the same. Make a contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase leader board will reset to zero, although the system retains these to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact you make in 2018 can count toward your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators also participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts also count, as will contacts with special event stations or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

Some radio amateurs live in sparsely populated grid squares, and if you're one of those, you could find yourself handling a pileup! Expeditions to hard-to-reach or rare grid squares undoubtedly will evolve. You also can travel to one of those grid squares yourself. Some vehicle or handheld GPS units can be set to display when you are in a particular grid square. Apps are available for smartphones or

tablets, such as *Ham Square* for iOS devices or *HamGPS* for Android devices.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to all radio amateurs.

Full details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of *QST*. The digital edition is available on Friday, November 10.

For more information, [contact](#) the ARRL Contest Branch. Read [more](#) at arrl.org.
–ARRL Letter Nov. 9th, 2017

W5IRP Participation in the ARRL 2017 Field Day:

Our DETARC Field Day score is now listed on the ARRL web site. We were the only 1F entry in the South Texas Section. We had 285 QSOs for a score of 808. We look forward to more participation and improving our score next year. -- Gary KI5LR.



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

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

FOR SALE: MFJ 989 HF Roller Inductor Antenna Tuner, very good shape. 1.5 KW capacity, antenna switch, single needle SWR meter. \$175. Gary KI5LR. gary.antley@consolidated.com

FOR SALE: 50' 12ga extension cord for sale \$20.00. \$65.00 at Lowes. Randy N5CRW 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. \$450 cash. Pick up only in Lufkin. Roger K0YY, 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.

8. EXTRA TIDBITS:

SPOTLIGHT ON HAM AWARD PROGRAMS:

So you think you might like to chase some awards. Well here you go with some information sources.

ARRL AWARDS:

DXCC- Worked 100 Countries+

WAS- Worked All States

WAC- Worked All Continents (fairly easy)

VUCC- Worked 100 grids+- (50/144 MHz)

FRED FISH MEMORIAL- Worked all US grids
(Lower 48 states)

More info-- <http://www.arrl.org/awards>



CQ MAGAZINE AWARDS: (Active links)

[CQ DX Awards](#)

• [CQ DX Marathon](#)

• [CQ WAZ Awards](#)

• [CQ Diamond Jubilee WAZ Award](#)

• [CQ WPX Awards](#)

• [CQ Halls of Fame](#)

• [CQ USA-CA Award](#)

More info: http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/index_cq_awards.html



RSGB Awards: (Radio Society of Great Britain)

IOTA Award (Islands on The Air)

More Info: <https://www.iota-world.org/>



Islands On The Air



World Wide Awards:

Many countries and Ham Radio organizations have special awards for working a specified number of contacts or provinces within their borders.

More Info: http://www.qsl.net/va3rj/awards_dx.html
(With thanks to VA3RJ for his fine list on QSL.net)

Here is one award example from Canada:

Great White North Award

- Categories
 - A contact with each of the 13 provinces/territories of Canada.
 - Contacts with 20 different Canadian callsign prefixes.
 - Contacts with 10 different Canadian Islands.
 - Contacts with 5 different Canadian Lighthouses.

Thoughts from our DETARC Secretary:

Ham Radio's Excitement is Poorly Translated into Words.

The excitement of ham radio happens all over the place, and I'm not just talking about the location of said excitement. I am talking about every minutia we all love to get into. I have been just as excited about an amazing conversation on SSB as I have had about finding the right "bleeping" drivers to bring some digital Frankenstein piece of equipment to life. Or, for a more tactile sensation, as satisfying as a power pole crimped just, right. And I know you have too in your own way, especially the longer you have been a ham. When I listen to the stories of my fellow club members, I feel like I am right there with them, exactly like a successful writer makes you feel THERE with written word. That kind of talent, either in spoken word, as my fellow members seem to have, or in any another way, sharing a ham memory is one big way we can perpetuate this hobby, amaze another, or boor them to death. I believe in the community of amateur radio. I believe in people. And I generally believe in peoples' stories, as too much skepticism can cripple a man, just as bad as a bum knee.

K5AGE
Rm Blake



Other than CW, RTTY the oldest digital mode!

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving from you DETARC Club Officers and Staff.



And happy hamming!

What have you done recently in Ham Radio that is exciting? Let me know and I'll include it in the next Newsletter.

Roger K0YY
DETARC Newsletter Editor