



DETARC, Inc. Lufkin, TX

Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

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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: **Notice:** The old DETARC email reflector is no longer in use. Join the "DETARC of Lufkin" Google Group email reflector to receive Club information. To join contact Megan KB5MEG.

Meeting Times/Location: Our monthly meeting is the 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.

For additional information on DETARC/ARES see the web site at www.detarc.net

DETARC/ARES News:



Communications Room HF Antenna:

Good news from the City, the pine tree by the parking lot will not be cut down. There is no need to relocate our HF antenna.

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

DETARC/ARES Projects/Events:

FOX HUNT: The Club is sponsoring a Fox Hunt on Saturday January 13th starting at 9 AM meet at the old armory. Mark your calendar now. All area Hams are welcome to participate. The event will be in Lufkin and the hunt will be on 2 meters.

Practice your Radio Direction Finding (RDFing) skills ahead of time.

See the information on RDF techniques in Section 8 the Tidbits Section of this Newsletter.

Please let Mike WD5EFY or Roger K0YY know if you plan to attend. We are coordinating this event.

2. Upcoming Ham Radio Contests/Special Events:



UPCOMING CONTESTS:

ARRL RTTY Round Up. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2400 UTC Sunday (January 6-7, 2018).

SELECT HAM SPECIAL EVENTS:

02/03/2018 | Space Shuttle Columbia Special Event

Feb 3-Feb 4, 1500Z-2200Z, K5C, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. 21.350 14.270 7.220. All contacts will be confirmed via LOTW. Special QSL card available for SASE. w5nac.com

04/21/2018 | San Jacinto Day Special Event

Apr 21-Apr 22, 1400Z-2100Z, K5T, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. 21.350 14.270 7.220. All contacts will be confirmed via LOTW. Special QSL card available for SASE. w5nac.com

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).



ARES activities are pretty much status quo with no call outs or severe weather in the area. As always though, be prepared with fueled vehicles, charged batteries and a ready go-bag!

The upcoming January Fox-Hunt has some excellent training points for ARES, so all are encouraged to attend and participate or even just come along and watch!

73 for now, 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.
(Worth repeating from December)

--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:



The new Saltgrass repeater seems to be working fine, thanks to Steve, N5ZUA.

The APRS digi seems to have had a little hiccup but a reset of the DSL modem may have cured that issue.

As always, reports of operational status, good or bad, are always appreciated!

Progress on the Alto Intertie repeater is going steady in the right direction with only a couple of setbacks, the PL encoder in the repeater failed and one of the small cooling fans shorted out and had to be replaced but luckily, I had replacements for both! The replacement controller (CatAuto Cat-300dxl) is interfaced and working well with the Micor repeater and I am now interfacing the two UHF link transceivers and the UHF control receiver to the multipoint link board. More next month!

73, Mike WD5EFY, Trustee W5IRP Systems and Maintenance Technician.

6. ARRL NEWS:



On-the-Air Competitions Just Ahead Embrace New and Classic.

--ARRL Letter Dec 15, 2017

Three times a year, the [ARRL Rookie Roundup](#) offers an opportunity for newly licensed amateurs, or anyone new to contesting, to compete only against their peers. The CW event takes place on December 17, 1800-2359 UTC. (SSB and RTTY events are in April and August, respectively.) Operators first licensed in 2018, 2017, or 2016 qualify as rookies and send the year first licensed in the exchange. Those licensed *before* 2016 also can be rookies for 1 year, if they (1) made their first Amateur Radio contact during 2018, 2017, or 2016, or (2) if they've never made any contacts using the mode of the event (i.e., CW for the December contest) before the Rookie Roundup (send the current year in the exchange)



Rookie Roundup CW 2017 (L-R): Mason Thompsen, K7MWT, and Tanner Thompsen, K7TMT.

The whole idea is to encourage radio amateurs

who are new to contesting to get on the air. Any radio amateur can participate, but non-rookies may *only* work rookies (rookies may work anyone and are scored against other rookies). A variety of operator categories is available.

ARRL-- The Doctor Will See You Now!

"Listener Mailbag" is the topic of the new (December 7) episode of the "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast. Listen...and learn!

Sponsored by [DX Engineering](#), "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

ARRL The Doctor is In Podcast

Available on iTunes & Stitcher

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www.DXEngineering.com



Every 2 weeks, your host, QST Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on [Apple iTunes](#), or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at [Blubrry](#), or at [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our [beginner's guide](#).

--ARRL Newsletter Dec 7, 2017

ARRL-- Another Great Event Coming!

(Worth repeating from December)

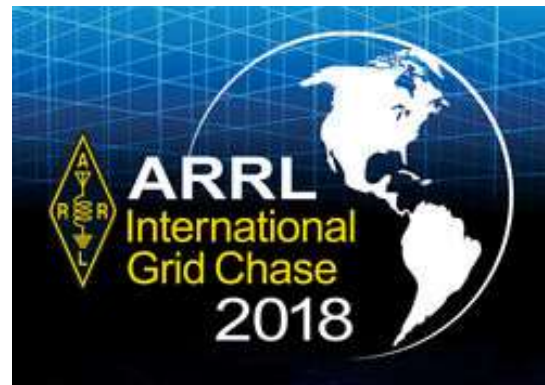
Announcing: The 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase.

—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 divvies 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.

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



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: 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:

Radio Direction Finding (RDFing).

A. BASIC RADIO DIRECTION FINDING (RDF) TECHNIQUES

1. THE BASIC TECHNIQUE IS YOU ARE CHECKING THE SIGNAL STRENGTH FROM THE FOX TRANSMITTER. YOU MAY LOOK FOR A SIGNAL MAXIMUM OR A MINIMUM TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION TO THE FOX. DEPENDING ON WHAT WORKS BEST WITH YOUR AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT.
2. YOU CAN USE "BODY BLOCKING" OR HOLDING YOUR TRANSCEIVER CLOSE TO YOUR BODY AND TURNING IN A CIRCLE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SIGNAL STRENGTH. WHEN THE SIGNAL STRENGTH IS AT THE LOWEST, THE FOX IS BEHIND YOU. WHEN IT IS AT THE HIGHEST, THE FOX IS IN FRONT OF YOU.
3. WHEN YOU ARE CLOSE TO THE FOX YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR RECEIVER ANTENNA POLARITY TO REDUCE THE SIGNAL STRENGTH AND GET A BETTER INDICATION OF DIRECTION. CROSS POLORIZATION (IF THE FOX ANTENNA IS VERTICALLY POLORIZED, HOLDING YOUR RADIO/ANTENNA IN A HORIZONTAL PLANE) CAN REDUCE A SIGNAL BY AROUND 25 DB.
4. YOU CAN ALSO HOLD YOUR TRANSCEIVER HORIZONTALLY TO SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY A MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM SIGNAL DIRECTION. WHEN THE RUBBER DUCK OF YOUR HAND HELD IS DIRECTLY POINTING AT THE FOX, THE SIGNAL WILL LIKELY BE THE WEAKEST.
5. MORE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES MAY USE A DIRECTIONAL ANTENNA SUCH AS A YAGI OR LOOP ANTENNA. SIGNAL STRENGTH WILL BE GREATEST OFF THE FRONT OF A YAGI. SIGNAL STRENGTH WILL BE AT A MINIMUM WHEN THE PLAN OF A LOOP IS IN LINE WITH THE DIRECTION OF THE FOX. SIGNAL STRENGTH USING A LOOP ANTENNA WILL BE GREATEST WHEN THE LOOP IS PERPANDICULAR TO THE FOX. HOWEVER, WITH A LOOP ANTENNA THE SIGNAL COULD BE IN TWO DIRECTIONS OFF THE FRONT OR BACK OF THE LOOP. YOU HAVE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS THE ACTUAL DIRECTION.
6. STEP OR VARIABLE ATTENUATORS ARE USEFUL TO REDUCE THE RECEIVED STRENGTH OF THE FOX SIGNAL AS YOU GET CLOSER TO THE FOX TRANSMITTER. IF THE FOX SIGNAL JUST PINS YOU S METER IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE DIRECTION TO THE FOX. THE ATTENUATOR DROPS THE RECEIVED SIGNAL DOWN IN STEPS. YOU ADD MORE ATTENUATION AS YOU GET CLOSER TO THE FOX.

7. YOU CAN OPEN THE SQUELCH ON YOUR RADIO TO LISTEN TO WEAK SIGNALS.
8. YOU CAN TUNE UP OR DOWN OFF THE FOX'S FREQUENCY 5 KHZ TO REDUCE THE SIGNAL STRENGTH TO ALLOW DETERMINING THE FOX'S DIRECTION.
9. THERE ARE MORE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES USING ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT THAT YOU CAN BUILD OR PURCHASE FROM COMPANIES THAT SPECIALIZE IN RDF EQUIPMENT.
10. WHILE IN SEARCH MODE AND DRIVING IT IS HELPFUL TO WORK IN TEAMS WITH ONE PERSON DRIVING AND ANOTHER PERSON WATCHING RECEIVED SIGNAL STRENGTH.

B. RDFing Sources of Information:

Here is some information on Fox Hunting. Recommend that you do a little reading on the subject to get an idea about how it all works. Even the "old heads" might brush up on this information.

****Good Site:** Here is a good YouTube video on Fox Hunting (thanks to Gary KI5LR):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQSiTqH9Dzw>

ARRL-- <http://www.arrl.org/direction-finding>

**** Good Site:** Homing In web site--
<http://www.homingin.com/>

Wikipedia--
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio_direction_finding

Slides on Fox Hunting-- https://www.scc-ares-races.org/training/courses/DirectionFinding/DFBasicsJun2011v1.4_2Up.pdf

**** Good Site:** Fox hunting basics--
http://www.w0qe.com/transmitter_hunting_basics.html

Fox Hunt Antennas--

<http://www.arrowantennas.com/main/fhl.html>



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE DETARC CLUB OFFICERS/ARES OFFICERS AND STAFF!

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

