



# NEWSLETTER

## Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

**DETARC, Inc.**  
**Lufkin, TX**

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

### 1. DETARC INFORMATION

#### **DETARC Special Election.**

DETARC members held a special election for the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary at the May meeting. The outgoing Officers had extra heavy demands on their time and other resources. After discussions, they decided for the good of the Club and to meet 501c3 corporate requirements to step aside and allow other members to step in. The results of the special election are as outlined below.

#### **New Club Officers:**

President- Roger K0YY, Vice President- Mike WD5EFY, Secretary- Megan KB5MEG, Treasurer- Patricia K5HER (remaining as Treasurer).

#### **Incoming President's Comments:**

Thank you to our outgoing Club Officers Steve KG5ODZ, Randy N5CRW, and RM K5AGE for the dedication, time, and resources they have expended for the DETARC Club. There are many behind the scenes efforts that go on to keep a Club functioning as well as the running of meetings and events. They all have spent many hours working to keep a viable Club running for members and all local Hams. Thank you all very much for your time and efforts!

As the new DETARC President I see my and the Executive Committee's responsibilities as three-fold:

Our first responsibility is to meet the Ham Radio needs of our Club members by providing a forum for exchanging ideas and information.

Our second responsibility supports the first by maintaining a healthy Club for our local community

of Hams. This includes offering presentations and events that interest old and new members alike.

Our third responsibility is to meet the requirements for our 501c3 Corporate status as DETARC, Inc. with the State of Texas.

#### **Folks with experience running organizations know this fact:**

***"Any volunteer organization is only as strong as the combined efforts of all its members."***

Please volunteer to help with Club activities and events. Learn to do something new. Everyone benefits, and experienced assistance is available.

I invite every DETARC member to voice your ideas and wishes for the Club. What would you like your Club to be and do?

#### **Speak up and be heard; step up and help out!**

--Roger K0YY

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

**Club Email Reflector:** Join the "DETARC of Lufkin" Google Group email reflector to receive Club information. To join contact Megan KB5MEG the Group Administrator.

**Meeting Times/Location:** Our monthly meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 PM, currently at the old armory on Tulane Drive, across from Kiwanis Park. **This may change to the Fire Station at 1112 Atkinson Drive in the next month or two.**

**DETARC/ARES Net:** 146.940 MHz-600, 141.3 CTCSS. Every Tuesday at 8 PM, alternates 147.360+600 MHz, no tone, 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:



#### New home for ARES/DETARC.

The City of Lufkin has offered us a lease for an unoccupied fire station at 1112 Atkinson Drive that would be ours exclusively. This is a give and take proposition where they provide a facility for our use and we, in turn, provide trained emergency communications operators through the ARES program to assist the City in times of emergency or other significant events.

**Breaking News:** We now have keys to the fire station, but we not formally occupy it until we have a signed lease. We will have a cleanup party ASAP. Sign up to help with Jerry KC5JWG or Roger K0YY.

Further details will be provided as the come available from Mike WD5EFY or Roger K0YY.

**Net Control Operators:** Many thanks to Jerry KC5JWB for his great job as Net Manager. **Please step up and help out with NCS duties.** If you can't make an assigned date, please find someone to fill in for you and let Jerry know.

Jerry KC5JWB will be the NCS for June filling in for Jerry K5JLW who was scheduled but is experiencing rig and antenna issues. The NCS 2018 schedule is posted out on the DETARC web site at <http://detarc.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Net-Call-Schedule-for-2018.pdf>

#### Door Prizes: Megan's Raffle Comments:

Our June quarterly prize will be the Tiny Trac 4 from Byonics: <https://www.byonics.com/tinytrak4/>

The Byonics TinyTrak4 is an APRS tracker controller, digipeater, and KISS TNC. When connected to a serial GPS and a radio, it can send and receive APRS position and telemetry packets,

as well as act as a standalone smart digipeater. A computer running APRS software can be connected to the second serial port to provide mapping of received traffic. C-ya there! KB5MEG

### DETARC/ARES Projects/Events:

Editor's Note: All past Newsletters are posted out on our web page. [www.DETARC.net](http://www.DETARC.net)

#### Neches River Rendezvous:

The Neches River Rendezvous Is scheduled for **June 2 with a backup date of June 16<sup>th</sup>.** Radio operators are needed for all positions. See Steve KB8QWN to sign up. A sign-up sheet was passed around at the March meeting. **Steve's email is [kb8qwn@hotmail.com](mailto:kb8qwn@hotmail.com)**

#### Field Day:

The annual ARRL Field Day will be held on the weekend of June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Megan KB5MEG is our Field Day Coordinator and Roger K0YY will be her assistant.

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

Planning will start ASAP for this fun event. If you would like to learn about and assist in planning for such an event, contact Megan or Roger now. Roger K0YY will only assist since assuming the President's duties.

### **SAREX: SAR Exercise.**

The Hudson K-9 Search and Rescue Team (SAR) is once again hosting SAREX for 2018 and is in need of operators to provide communications for the search teams. This is a "boots on the ground" exercise and will be the second one we have participated in. The 2017 SAREX was rained out but the 2016 exercise was a great success with lots of participants and operators helping. (We'll try not to have any more fires in the cab of the military transport vehicle this year!) This exercise will test the skills of several area search and rescue teams coming here to participate in the event.

**SAREX will be the last weekend of June, so Saturday and Sunday, June 30th and July 1st are the dates.** Operators will be needed for the command center (Hudson VFD), an operator for the military transport vehicles and an operator to go with each team on their search in the field. Again, this is a real search looking for real people (previously placed in a hidden position) in several different areas of the county so solid communications back to the command center are vital. If you can help both days that would be terrific, or if you are only available one of the days that would also be very helpful.

All help is appreciated, and this is excellent training for us as communicators and is a very fun event!

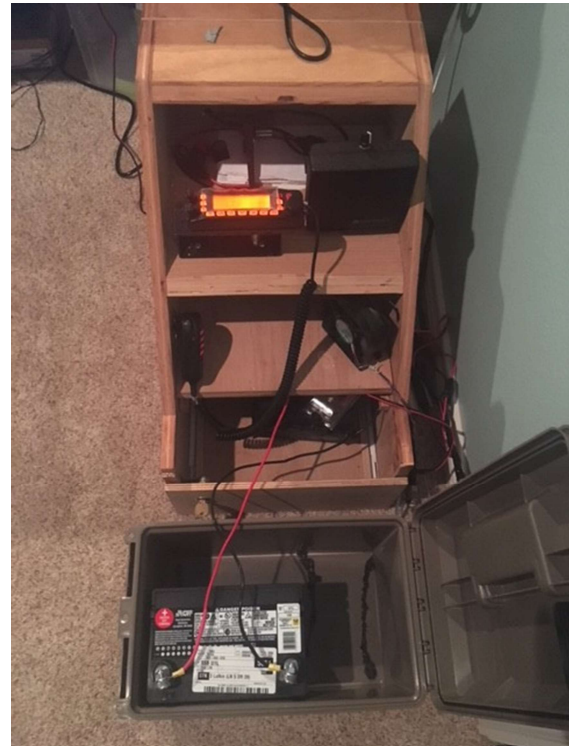
**Contact Mike Miles, WD5EFY, at [wd5efy@arrl.net](mailto:wd5efy@arrl.net)**

### **News break item:**



**So, you want to do Packet radio.** Well here is the Kantronics KPC3+. One of the principal VHF Packet TNCs.

### **Steve Jackson's KE5CJE, Go Box Project:**



This particular go kit turned into a "Go office set up." I started out to build a grab and go but after some wood work and components it got too heavy just to grab. So, I went with the notion that I already have a portable go container "my truck" and this kit would turn into a secondary longer term set up for a served agency or Field Day.

The wood box contains a Yaesu FT 7900, power amp, Motorola speaker and battery backup. My battery is a 1UL and fits in a plastic ammo type box. Coupling all this together I use an Anderson power pole distributor and a (double pole double throw) selector switch. I built cables on one side of the switch to go to the power amp for shore (120v ac) power and the other side of the switch to the battery box for (12v dc.) The center leads go to the radio itself.

I have an internal battery charger /maintainer that keeps the battery at full charge. Future expansion for my battery box is a power pole distributor, volt/amp meter, cigarette type plug and binding

(banana) poles when I get some time.  
--Steve KE5CJE

### Future DETARC Meeting Presentations:

**May-** "Neticate" By Steve KB8QWN, repeater operating practices especially during nets (just before the NRR operation)

**June-** 900 MHz Operations and equipment demo by Patrick W5DVG

**July-** Army MARS operations by Patricia K5HER

**August-** DMR & DSTAR VHF/UHF digital radio operations and Raspberry Pi Internet linking by Steve KE5CJE.

Mark your calendars now so you don't forget these great presentations.

### Possible Future Presentations: **What would you like to have at a meeting? Speak up!**

1. A homebrew emergency power switch-over switch by Gary KI5LR.
2. Types of coax cable appropriate for various frequency band and power installations by Roger K0YY. Sample of a lightning strike punching holes in coax cable.
3. QSL cards and QSL methods for modern Hams by Roger K0YY.
4. DXing 101. How to find and chase DX?
5. Digital mode operation?

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



### UPCOMING CONTESTS:

For details see-- [www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/)

### SELECT HAM SPECIAL EVENTS:

Field Day Jun 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

### UPCOMING HAMFESTS:

June 8-10 -- [West Gulf Division Convention](#) (Ham-Com), Plano, Texas

**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.ng3k.com/> Great resource page.

### 3. AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE® (ARES)

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



As always, be prepared personally with fueled vehicles, charged batteries, fresh fuel for the generators, staged equipment and a ready go-bag!  
--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 146.94 and other participating repeaters at 2030 hours local time.

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

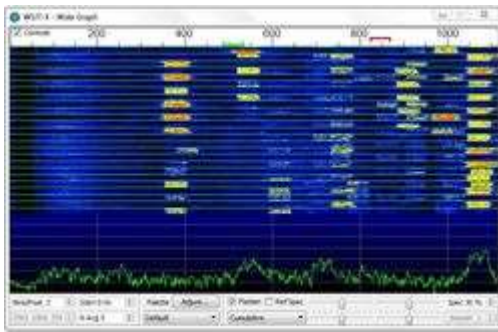
### 4. OPERATING/TRAINING:



#### FT8 Activity Bumping Up at Some Expense to Other Modes

Despite largely dismal HF conditions, there is no doubt that the recent FT8 digital protocol has hams on the air. The mode has caught on so quickly that co-developer Joe Taylor expressed surprise last fall at the rapid uptake of FT8 for making contacts on HF bands. Judging by Logbook of The World (LoTW) data, more than 2.3 million FT8 contacts were uploaded in 1 month -- a net gain of 1.2 million contacts on all modes over the same month last year.

ARRL Radio Sport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, said. Over the same period, activity in some of the other modes has declined.



"Year-to-date DXCC applications are up by 11% over the same period last year,"

Fusaro said. "So far, we have processed 898 Worked All States (WAS) applications -- a 72% increase over the same period last year. Of those applications, 347 -- or 39% -- were FT8 endorsements. Application for VUCC are also up by 33% over 2017."

Fusaro said that while some feel that FT8 is "taking over the world," subsuming all other modes, that's not the case. "Activity in the traditional modes of SSB and CW has decreased only slightly, by 10%," he said. "The *real* decrease is in RTTY and PSK activity and in the other WSJT-X modes. I believe poor propagation would have cut into SSB and CW activity, regardless of the new mode." Anecdotal

reports support Fusaro's hard numbers, with wall-to-wall signals surrounding the FT8 watering holes.

Late last year, Denny Berg, WB9MSM, achieved his goal of completing DXCC using FT8. It took him just 4 months.



--ARRL Letter May17, 2018

### 5. REPEATER NOTES:



**NOTE:** The repeater site has experienced an air conditioning failure. The high temperature in the building could affect the 94, 36, APRS, Packet, and Saltgrass repeaters. Work is underway to fix it.

As always, reports of operational status, good or bad, are always appreciated and should be reported to me, Mike WD5EFY.

--73, Mike WD5EFY, Trustee & W5IRP Repeater Systems Maintenance Technician.

### Fire Station key to rear door?





### 6. ARRL NEWS:

**NEW Technician class (Element 2) pool will take effect on July 1, 2018 will be valid until June 30, 2022.**

On July 1, 2018 a new Element 2 Technician class question pool will take effect for examinations. VECs and VEs will have new test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.

The newly revised pool released in January 2018 (updated and re-released February 12, 2018) by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) must be in use starting July 1. There are three graphics required for this pool and 423 questions in this pool, down slightly from 426 in the previous pool.

ARRL VEC will be supplying all its (near 1,000) Field Stocked VE teams with new test booklets about the 3rd week in June.

Do not destroy the 2014 versions of the Technician exams until June 30!

With the Technician class exam questions changing July 1, new test designs must be used effective that day. Previous ARRL VEC supplied Technician class exam booklet versions (2014 series) and computer-generated Technician class exams created from the 2014 question pool are only valid until midnight June 30, 2018. At that time VE Team leaders should destroy or throw away the old versions of the Technician exams (do not return them to VEC). To avoid a mix-up at the session, do not save old exam versions!

--ARRL VEC Newsletter May 2018

### 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>.

### Members— we would like your input.

What have you done recently in Ham Radio that is exciting? Let us know and we'll include mention of it in the next Newsletter.

Perhaps we could talk about it at an upcoming meeting. Bring your latest project for show and tell.

Roger K0YY,  
DETARC Newsletter Editor.