



Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

DETARC, Inc.
Lufkin, TX

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Roger K0YY Editor,
k0yy@arrl.net

1. DETARC INFORMATION

To pay your dues of \$25, see Patricia K5HER our Treasurer at a meeting. Please provide all of your current information on the Roster update sheet when paying or signing in at a meeting.

Alternately, send a check and full information including address, email, phone & cell phone, and ARRL membership status to the Club address at 904 Sherwood Rd, Lufkin, TX 75904-4567.

2019 Club Officers:

President- Gary KI5LR, Vice President- Steve KE5CJE, Secretary- Andy KE5JEK/Alternate Andy KE5EXX, Treasurer- Patricia K5HER.

President's comments:

Where did March go? Winter kind of picked up speed and blew on by. Spring is here and we can start getting out in the yard working our antenna farm. I have been hearing a little chatter on the repeater about antenna working being done and even more being planned. Whatever your radio project is, be safe and ask for help if you need it. Some of us will work for a sandwich and coffee.

I always plan HUGE because my plans never really are fulfilled. Lack of time and funding are the normal culprits for the temporarily permeant installations around station KI5LR. Temporarily permeant is okay if the install works. After all we are Amateur Radio Operators.

Be sure to schedule the 4th Thursdays for the club meetings. Lots of thing we can do as a radio club coming up. Neches River Rendezvous, Field Day, Special Event Station, Tail Gate Gathering, Picnic, etc. Should be something for everyone. If you don't see anything that fits you interest, tell the

club! There may be several others that might find your topic of interest as well.

– Gary KI5LR

Club Web Page: 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 via the Google Group web page or at a meeting.

<https://groups.google.com/group/DETARCOfLufkin>.

Meeting Times/Location: Our monthly meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 PM, We meet at the Carpenters Way church at the NE corner of John Redditt Drive and West Frank Ave. The GPS location is 400 N. John Redditt Drive. Enter the church parking lot via the northbound on-ramp to John Redditt drive.

DETARC 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 see the web site at www.detarc.net

DETARC NEWS:



February DETARC Meeting Minutes:

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm local time by Gary Antley KI5LR, President. There were 27 members present.

- Treasury report read and approved, motion by Andy Delgado KE5EXX, second Dale Kirkland KE5ADC.
- Membership -- 27 paid members
- AI N6VQO has finished a membership Roster. Thanks AI.
- The Huntington High School Robotics class could not make a full contact with the International Space Station. They will try again at a later date – Kris Kirkland K5KRK

New Business

- Andy Delgado KE5EXX made a motion to remove the ARES statement from the weekly net protocol. Second Steve Jackson KE5CJE. Passed.
- Patrick made a motion to give free membership to Kris Kirkland K5KRK as payment for Kris' handling the URL and web hosting expenses. Second by Jerry Black KC5JWB. Passed.
- Discussion about a gun donation drive for this coming year. This year we will offer a rifle. Seems good idea to rotate between a pistol and rifle to offer variety. Donny Kee is going to check on availability of a Ruger American 6.5 Creedmoor rifle.
- Andy Delgado KE5EXX made motion to adjourn, second Dayton KG5TKF@ 7:30

2019 Meeting Presentations:

- March 2019 – Portable Operations and Neches River Rendezvous with Steve KB8QWN
- April 2019 – Field Day
- May 2019 – HAM Software with Roger K0YY and Gary KI5LR

We are working on additional meeting presentations and perhaps an ice cream social again or a picnic. Let a Club Officer know if you would like to have a presentation on a topic of interest.

Potential 2019 DETARC Activities: (We need volunteers to coordinate and assist).

Texas State Parks on The Air, April 13-14th.
Kris K5KRK is interested in fielding a team.
Contact Kris if interested kris@kriskirkland.com

Neches River Rendezvous—June 1st
Tailgate swapfest
Field Day—June 22-23rd
Picnic
DETARC Special Event—Texas Forest Museum on the air with a special 1x1 call sign or W5IRP call?

Upcoming 2019 Hamfests: (ARRL Web Site)

Hamfest/Conventions

Apr 6, 2019:

Belton HamEXPO:

Bell County Expo Center- Belton, Texas
Admission Fee \$5 per person, includes one free raffle ticket (\$2value).
Children under 12 free. www.tarc.org/hamexpo

June 7 and 8, 2019:

Ham Com 2019

Plano Event Center
2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX 75074
www.hamcom.org

Hamfest/Convention

08/02/2019 | [Austin Summerfest 2019](#)

Location: Austin, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Austin ARC & Texas VHF-FM Society

Website: <http://www.austinsummerfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

--Some info from STX Newsletter Jan 2019

Upcoming Special Events:

Texas State Parks on The Air April 13-14th.

<https://www.tspota.org/>

San Jacinto Day K5T Special Event

April 20th

Nacogdoches ARC www.w5nac.com

Upcoming Contests: (ARRL Sponsored)

March 2019

CQ WW SSB WPX Contest March 30—31st
<https://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

April 14 **Rookie Roundup – Phone** 2019

June 8-10 **June VHF** 2019
15 **Kids Day**
22-23 **Field Day**

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

Contests: www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/
www.arrl.org/contest-calendar
www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

CQ Contests: http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html

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

Hamfests: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/Location.state:TX>

DX Operations: <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)



DEC's Comments—

As always, be prepared personally with fueled vehicles, charged batteries, fresh fuel for the generators, Power Poles installed on all your rigs, staged equipment and a ready Go-Bag!

--73 for now, Mike – WD5EFY

4. OPERATING/TRAINING:



FCC Notice of Rule Making:

The FCC today announced that written examinations for Amateur Radio Licenses will no longer be required after June 1st, 2019. A letter of recommendation will be required to be submitted to the FCC signed by the Amateur in a local Club with the most longevity as a licensed operator. More details to follow. (It's the **April** Newsletter folks).

ARRL Contest Letter: NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

The [CQ WW WPX Contest](#) is the 'big' contest in the next two weeks. You probably won't run out of multipliers in this contest, and huge scores are possible. There's great flexibility in entry categories, power levels and band choices. For a change of pace, try the [NA SSB Sprint](#), where the four hours of operating can be intense and there's also a chance for prizes.

Here is a sampling of upcoming contests—

March 30

- [CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB](#)
- [Feld Hell Sprint](#)

April 1

- [IQRP Quarterly Marathon](#)
- [RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW](#)

April 2

- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#)

April 3

- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Contest](#)

-ARRL Contest Letter, March 20, 2019

5. REPEATER NOTES:



The Alto Intertie Repeater System is back on the air!!

Steve and I (KB8QWN & WD5EFY) went to the site 3-14-19 and found the repeater dead but all the link and control radios on and well.

A little troubleshooting revealed the +13.8 VDC wire going to the repeater had burned in two at the connector on the power distribution board! We scrounged and between us had just enough parts/connectors/wire to make a quick repair.

We also replaced the duplexer that had a broken connector on one of the jumpers between cavities which was just enough RF leak to cause all of the intermod and desense we were previously experiencing on the repeater/s. We believe this was the problem, but comments are welcome if you hear any issues.

Many thanks to Army, AE5P, for tuning the new duplexer with excellent timing on his part to meet the opportunity to replace the cans. We took the old duplexer (Many thanks to Roger, K0YY for the donation of the duplexer for Alto!) from Alto to Nacogdoches, picked up the new duplexer and went back to Alto and installed it and put the repeater back on the air!!

The DETARC 440 repeater on 444.975+5 CTCSS 107.3 is down with an apparent bad final output power amplifier. Our technicians are evaluating what is needed to fix it.

The DETARC 440 repeater is now typically linked to the Saltgrass System via Allstar now that the broken Saltgrass System repeater has been removed from Lufkin.

Paid DETARC members may receive training and instruction on how to command the Allstar node to link to other Allstar nodes around the US and world.

The plan is to eventually add an Allstar Node to the high level 36 repeater. This will give more Club members access to world-wide Allstar nodes including the Saltgrass System. Thanks Mike WD5EFY, Kris K5KRK, and Andy KE5EXX.

As always, please let me know of any glitches or malfunctions you find as you use this new system and let me know what you think of it and how it can be improved!

73, Mike – WD5EFY, Trustee and W5IRP Systems Tech Support with Kris K5KRK assisting



6. ARRL NEWS:



General Class Element 3 Question Pool errata have been released. The NCVETC Question Pool Committee has released the latest errata for the [2019 - 2023](#)

[General Element 3 question pool](#), which goes into effect on July 1, 2019. These changes are reflected in the new General Pool download file, dated March 15, 2019.

–ARRL Letter Mar 21, 2019

The Two "Entry-Level" FCC Petitions Now Accepting Comments are Very Different

The FCC recently invited public comment on [ARRL's 2018 Technician Enhancement Petition for Rule Making \(RM-11828\)](#). It asks the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. It does *not* seek to

years old and would earn operating privileges on 99 channels in a 70-centimeter segment that Hampton calls a "TyroSubBand." It would offer no HF privileges.

These are *not* competing petitions. Members of the Amateur Radio community should evaluate both proposals on their own merits and comment if they desire. ARRL has provided [a summary of the Technician Enhancement proposals](#) and explained their advantages.

Interested parties have 30 days to comment on both proposals. For information on how to file comments, visit ["How to Comment on FCC Proceedings."](#)

--ARRL Letter Mar 21, 2019

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).

For Sale: 64-foot free standing Rohn BX64 tower. On the ground. No hardware. Suitable for 6-meter or VHF/UHF beam or large VHF/UHF vertical. Contact k0yy@arrl.net for details. More details at-- <https://criticaltowers.com/bx%20series%20towers/web%20pages/BX%20Series%20Tower%20Page.htm>

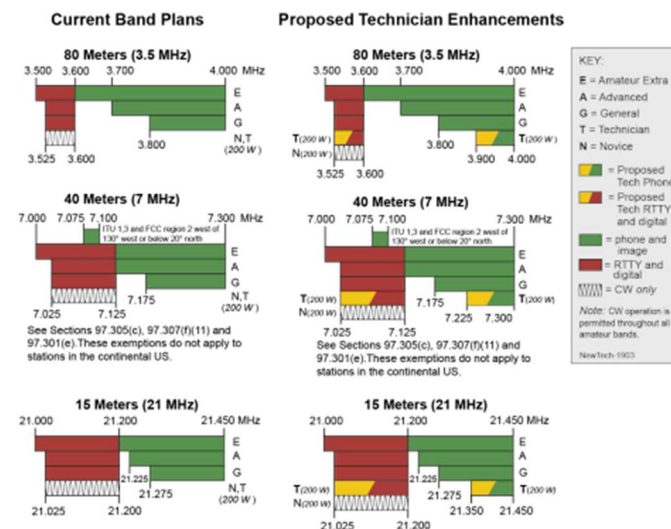
8. Additional Ham Radio News:

Survey: FT8 Growing as DX Mode in an Era of Waning Propagation

– ARRL Letter March 21, 2019

In the 2018 update of his [survey](#) of modes used on the air, [Club Log's Michael Wells, G7VJR](#), says the number of Club Log users uploading at least one FT8 contact to the site grew from 8,000 in 2017 to 14,200 in 2018. Wells worked with data from Club Log users who, he reports, uploaded 41.3 million contacts in 2018, up by 12% from last year.

"I think that fact is more significant given the ongoing decline of this particular solar cycle, and it's possible evidence of extra activity from FT8 and newly active amateurs who'd run out of steam on



create a new Amateur Radio license class.

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide present and future Technicians with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, and with RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

The FCC has also invited public comment on an entirely *unrelated* [Petition for Rule Making \(RM-11829\)](#), filed in 2017 by ARRL member Gary A. Hampton, AD0WU, of Longmont, Colorado. Hampton has asked the FCC to create a new "Tyro" entry-level license class, which would require a minimal online examination as well as mentoring by an Amateur Radio licensee of Technician class or higher. Tyro licensees would have to be at least 11

CW and SSB, but are back to try digital modes,” Wells said.

He reports that 13,900 users uploaded at least one CW contact, and 18,000 had at least one phone contact. The total number of active users was just under 22,000 across all modes in 2018, Wells said, who added that number has been dropping each year since 2015.

“When we look at the [graph of QSOs](#), you can deduce that FT8 users must be prolific in terms of the number of QSOs they make when they’re on the air,” Wells said. “Once you start making FT8 QSOs, I get the feeling it’s more likely you’ll be on the bands for longer in a session, as it can be quite addictive working DX in the noise. Having those absolute signal-to-noise figures is compelling.”

In his discussion, Wells reported that operators from some 270 DXCC entities were active on FT8 in 2018. “It’s quite a showing for FT8,” he allowed, pointing out that the figure is close to the computed 287 active DXCC entities. About two-thirds of DXpeditions using Club Log used FT8 while active, and a bit more than 6% of Club Log DXpedition contacts were on FT8 last year.

Wells observed that while it’s likely that more modest stations are logging rare DX, especially in DXpedition mode where FT8 favors weaker signals, its use comes at the expense of speed — or rate.

“With many expeditions to rarer locations being somewhat constrained logistically, and not having the luxury of staying a long time, operating FT8 could be seen as something of a trade-off,” Wells said. “Even so, for pure throughput, it seems expeditions are still getting the numbers from other modes. Expeditioners like to work pileups and amass as many contacts as they can, after all.”

Wells posits that FT8 may be the only way to stay in the hobby for operators living on small lots and confronting stringent zoning regulations. “However, I think we mustn’t romanticize those particular situations too much. A lot of the FT8 on the bands today is just plain old competitive,” he concluded. “It’s generally become a QRO [high-power] mode,

and it’s fierce in its ways. SSB and CW CQs are often going unanswered, while a tiny sliver of each band heaves with FT8. This pattern hasn’t relented in 2018. That’s not great news.”

“Help my account has been hacked.”

(Copied with permission from Apollos Development website -- Thanks to Andy KE5EXX)

Well...maybe not. Let’s look a little closer. First things first, CHANGE YOUR PASSWORD!!! A good password is at least 8 characters long (longer is better), has at least an uppercase letter, a lowercase letter, a number, and a symbol. Why am I such a stickler for secure passwords? Let’s do the math. There are 26 letters in the alphabet...that is 26 uppercase letters and 26 lowercase letters. There are 10 numbers. There are at least 18 symbols that are easy to create with a 104 key keyboard.

So that means:

- An 8 character password that uses lowercase letters only has 26^8 possible password combinations. 26 to the 8th power = 208,827,064,576.
- An 8 character password that uses uppercase AND lowercase letters only has 52^8 possible password combinations. 52 to the 8th power = 53,459,728,531,456.
- An 8 character password that uses uppercase letters, lowercase letters, and numbers has 62^8 possible password combinations. 62 to the 8th power = 218,340,105,584,896.
- An 8-character password that uses uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and up to 18 symbols has 80^8 possible password combinations. 80 to the 8th power = 1,677,721,600,000,000.

Which level of protection would you rather have protecting your Facebook account (not to mention your email, other social media, medical, and banking accounts)?

On a modern computer, it takes about 0.0017 milliseconds to compute a hash. This translates to

about 1.7×10^{-6} seconds per password or 588,235 passwords per second. There are options that could make the operation faster.

Let's do some more math:

- 8 character, lowercase letters only would take approximately 2 days to run through all the combinations
- 8 character, upper and lowercase letters would take approximately 1.44 years to run through all the combinations
- 8 character, upper and lowercase letters and numbers would take approximately 5.88 years to run through all the combinations
- 8 character, upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols would take approximately 45.2 years to run through all the combinations.

Of course, there are always exceptions to the rule. With newer technology, botnets, and GPU's among others, these times can be shortened quite a bit. Why not add a few more characters to your password? Each additional character is an order of magnitude greater possible combinations. If your friends have reported to you that they received a second, third, or fourth (or more) friend request from you, then you probably haven't been hacked. More than likely, your Facebook account name has been spoofed. This means that someone has used your name to create another Facebook account and is looking for people to friend them.

The spoofer can then use the data they gather from your friends to either attempt to mine info from them to sell or to use themselves.

There isn't much you can do about spoofing. You can block the offending account on Facebook. You can (and should) read what Facebook has to say on the topic by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/help/phishing> Remind your friends that you are already friends with them on Facebook. By all means, teach them about security.

If you think your computer has been compromised, please do not hesitate to contact us for a security scan. In most cases we can do it remotely. Our number is 936.559.7797.

— Andy KE5EXX, Appollos Development

Area Hams, be our guests—

Come join our meetings and see your Ham friends. Or check in to our weekly net on 146.940 Tuesday evenings at 8 PM. We would love to see or hear from you!

Do you have a question, an idea for discussion, or an article on an item of interest for the Newsletter?

Contact Roger K0YY, Editor at k0yy@arri.net



I just worked another new country, an "ATNO"!

