



NEWSLETTER

Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

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Roger K0YY Editor,
k0yy@arrl.net

DETARC, Inc. Lufkin, TX

1. CLUB INFORMATION

2020 Officers:

President- Dayton KG5TKF, Vice President- Terry W5PCJ, Secretary- Tim KG5YNA, Treasurer- Patricia K5HER

Club Web Page: www.detarc.net

DETARC Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/DETARC/>

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: SPECIAL NOTICE: DUE TO THE SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS FOR COVID-19, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL CLUB MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE REGULAR SCHEDULED TIMES, OVER THE AIR ON THE CLUB REPEATERS LISTED BELOW.

Normally, 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, CTCSS 107.2 Hz, or 146.42 Simplex.

For additional information on DETARC see the web site at www.detarc.net. and the DETARC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DETARC/>



2. DETARC NEWS:

DETARC MEETING MINUTES APRIL 23rd 2020.

- 1) Dayton KG5TKF called the virtual over- the - air meeting to order on 146.94 at 7pm.
- 2) Introduction: 14 members and guests called in for the meeting.
- 3) Minutes for the March meeting were read by Tim KG5YNA. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Megan KG5MEG, 2nd by Steve KB8QWN. The motion passed.
- 4) Reports:
 - A) Treasurers report: Ending Balance \$1902.90. Membership dues are due by 6/25/2020. The breakdown is as follows \$25 single, \$35 family, \$10 student. The current information is on the DETARC web site. Chris WS5JET made a motion to accept the report, 2nd by Roger K0YY. The motion passed.
 - B) Membership report: no additions or deletions in the last month.
 - C) Repeater report: Status is the same on all repeaters. Mike WD5EFY is recovering from knee surgery.
 - D) Events: POTA is pending. K5F we haven't reached out to anyone yet. Tailgate sale is in the pipeline for October. Field day will be covered in old business.
- 5) Old business:
 - A) Fundraiser: Donnie K5KEE will purchase the firearm. He also suggested 3 popular options (Springfield hell cat, Ruger 300 blackout, and a high capacity shotgun). Anyone interested in

suggesting a possible firearm is encouraged to email Megan. After a discussion on how to handle the fundraiser in a time of health and economic concern a motion was made by Patricia, K5HER to move along with Megan's plan and have a final vote at the next meeting. 2nd by Mike WD5EFY. The motion passed.

- B) Field Day: 2 venues have opened up for possible field day locations. First, we have the opportunity to set up at Piney Point again this year. Second we have the opportunity to set up at Bill's N5YA contest station. Option 1 is more traditional but work intensive and participation may be down this year. Option 2 is already set up and will require less work but is further away. After a discussion it was decided that anyone who would commit in advance to attend field day could vote for their preferred location on the DETARC email deflector or on the Facebook group page. Results will be announced at the next meeting.
- C) At the time of this meeting the Neches River Rendezvous is still on schedule for 6/6/2020. (Editor's note- CANCELLED)
- 6) New Business: Steve KB8QWN paid \$300 for the clubs' insurance for the next year. A motion was made by Patricia K5HER to reimburse Steve. 2nd by Mike WD5EFY. The motion passed.
- 7) Closing: At 8:05 a motion to adjourn was made by Dayton KG5TKF. 2nd by Mike WD5EFY. The motion passed,
--Tim KG5YNA Secretary

DETARC SPECIAL EVENTS:

DETARC is planning on putting on Special Event Stations like "Parks On The Air" (POTA), the Forestry Museum, Field Day, and Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) again this year.

Listen to nets and on-line meetings for details. Come to meetings when available again.

Upcoming 2020 Texas Hamfests:

NOTE: Most Hamfests are cancelled due to COVID-19.

Upcoming Special Events: Mark your calendars now! Select events, many more are at <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

06/01/2020 | Dog Island IOTA DXpedition to NA-085/EL79

Jun 1-Jun 11, 0059Z-2359Z, K4D, Caribbelle, FL. K5TEN. 14.074 7.074 14.235 7.190. QSL. Bruce Brady, 208 Mt Tabor Rd., Hot Springs National Park, AR 71913. Rare grid EL79. Rare IOTA NA-085.. rockradio1@aol.com or www.qrz.com/db/k4d

Field Day, Saturday & Sunday, June 27 & 28th
<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Texas QSO Party, September 12-13th, TDXS
<https://www.txqp.net/index.php/rules/>

Upcoming Contests (ARRL):

June 2020

13-15 [June VHF](#)
20 [Kids Day](#)
27-28 [Field Day](#)

A Sample list of Upcoming Contests:

(From ARRL Contest Letter May 27, 2020, See also www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/)

June 1

- [RSGB Hope QSO Party](#)
- [RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data](#)

June 2

- [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weekspring](#)

June 3

- [Phone Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)

June 4

- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [NRAU 10m Activity Contest](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Summer Series](#)
- [SKCC Sprint Europe](#)

June 5

- [NCCC RTTY Sprint](#)
- [NCCC Sprint](#)
- [HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest](#)

June 6

- [10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest](#)
- [PVRC Reunion](#)
- [DigiFest](#)
- [Wake-Up! QRP Sprint](#)
- [VK Shires Contest](#)
- [SEANET Contest](#) (Website link is broken)
- [UKSMG Summer Contest](#)
- [Kentucky QSO Party](#)
- [Dutch Kingdom Contest](#)
- [IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint](#)

June 7

- [PVRC Reunion](#)
- [DigiFest](#)
- [Cookie Crumble QRP Contest](#)

June 9

- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)

June 10

- [NAQCC CW Sprint](#)
- [Phone Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Summer Series](#)
- [RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW](#)

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

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

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

DX Operations: <http://www.ng3k.com/> A great DX resource page.

3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

(NOTE: This is a partial copy of an article in the May NARC Newsletter-- by Steve WB5IDY, copied with permission).

Some preparedness tips to remember:

- (1) If the public water supply is off, remember your water heater holds 40 gallons of drinkable water – turn it off, open the pressure relief valve to let air in, and open the hose connection at the bottom.
- (2) Your toilet will flush by just pouring water into the bowl. If you can, fill the bathtub with water before an event and dip water into the toilet until it flushes by siphon. Wash water or other non-potable water can also be used.
- (3) Your gas grill makes a great stove and oven. Always keep a full propane bottle (or two) in the garage.
- (4) A simple folding camping fire grate or a grate from your gas grill and a few old bricks, make a good fire pit for cooking and warmth.
- (5) LED lanterns give more light for the

least amount of power. Always have a couple handy with fresh batteries. Avoid using fuel-based lanterns in the house.

(6) Eight (8) drops of bleach per gallon can sanitize non-potable water. Boiling water and filtering with a cloth before adding bleach is even safer.

Lastly, and it should go without saying, always have a multi-band HT with extra batteries, charged up and handy. Some of the varieties made in China, double as an FM radio and a Weather radio. They are well worth the \$30 investment, even if you only use it during the zombie apocalypse.

I am not a Mormon, but the LDS folks have one of the better comprehensive guides to preparations, available for free. It has a few LDS overtones, but in general it is a very good guide.

You can download their manual at:

<https://28748o49xyyp4y6wa1ngl3u1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/LDSPrep-V8.pdf>

--Steve WB5IDY/NARC

4. OPERATING/TRAINING:



Six Meters-The Magic Band:

(NOTE: This is a copy of an article in the May NARC Newsletter-- by Tom W5TV, copied with permission).

Many people refer to the six-meter band (50 – 54 MHz) as the Magic Band because it can act like an HF band at times and like a VHF band at other times. Technically, since it is above 30 MHz, it is a VHF band; however, at times you can work stations all over the world like an HF band.

Let's look at some of the modes of propagation. Normally you can work stations within a 100 – 125 mile radius, depending on your power and antenna. As we approach the months of May through July we can have what is called Sporadic-E propagation. Even though we think of this time of year as the 'season' for sporadic-E skip, it can happen anytime

of the year. It is called **E-skip** because the signals are reflected back to earth by the E-layer of ionization. It is called **sporadic** because it can last for a few minutes or a few hours and it can be very directional. If you have a single hop (reflection) you might get up to 1400 miles and if you have multiple hops the distance can be 5000 miles or more. Signals are often strong even with low power and a small antenna.

As we get in the next sunspot cycle and the sunspots are high we have more ionization of the F-layer and that layer may be able to reflect 6 meter signals. In this case, 6 meters may be better than HF bands for DX work because noise from atmospheric sources is lower. This F-layer propagation will come later in the next cycle. There is also Auroral propagation, however, we don't benefit much from that here. There is another possibility however, called **meteor scatter**. When meteors enter the Earth's atmosphere, they ionize a small trail through the E-layer. This ionization may last for several seconds and provide the ability for 50 MHz signals to be reflected back to Earth. Communicating using this method of propagation requires much patience but it can be done and it's kind of fun.

Now let's talk about the frequencies that are used for various modes of communication on 6 meters. First, CW is exclusive from 50.0 to 50.100 MHz. Most CW operation occurs at the top end of this range. SSB starts at 50.100 MHz; however, the frequencies from 50.100 to 50.125 MHz are usually reserved for DX operation. The frequency of 50.125 is considered the SSB calling frequency for stations in the US. If you want to listen for activity this is good frequency to monitor. Common courtesy suggests that stations move off the calling frequency once contact is established. The 6-meter AM calling frequency is 50.400 MHz. With the introduction of digital activity, we have the popular FT8 mode that usually populates 50.313 MHz. Meteor scatter uses the MSK144 digital mode and the usual place is 50.260 MHz. FM activity begins at 51 MHz and several band segments are used for repeater inputs and outputs. The national simplex calling frequency for FM is 52.525 MHz.

I am sure there are other modes and activities on 6 meters but the ones I mentioned above are probably the most popular.

The internet is a good source of information regarding the status of propagation on 6 meters as well as other bands. For example, DX Maps (www.dxmaps.com) will provide real time maps of recent contacts. Also, DX Summit (www.dxsummit.fi) can be used to set filters for mode and band so you get a report of activity related to your interests. If you have an interest in meteor scatter, then I suggest going to Ping Jockey (www.pingjockey.net). This site will permit you to schedule meteor scatter contacts and it will show you activity.

Most HF radios have the 6-meter band as a part of their operation. That makes this an easy band to experiment with. As far as antennas are concerned you can use a dipole or a J-pole to get started, however it isn't too hard to build a 3 element yagi for 6 meters. If you do a search on the internet you will find many projects with step-by-step directions on how to build a simple antenna for 6 meters. A good book on this topic is "Magic Band Antennas for Ham Radio" by Bruce Walker, N3JO. This book is available from ARRL and it is worth having for your Amateur Radio Library.

This is a good time to get ready to work some stations on 6 meters. Please give me a call if you hear a KL7 on 6. Have FUN!

--Tom W5TV/NARC

Editor's Note: June is normally a hot month for 6-meters. 6-meters has been hot lately and the June VHF Contest is coming up. It is a great way to work on WAS or VUCC on 6-meters. See "ARRL Contests" above. The underlining is by the editor,

5. REPEATER NOTES:



The 146.34/94 continues to operate with limited coverage. Please note that to access the repeater it still uses the 141.3 PL tone encode and decode.

We are still troubleshooting a noise problem on the 94 repeater. We take it off the air whenever the noise is a problem to safeguard the system. A different set of duplexers was recently installed on the 94 repeater to try and eliminate the noise problem. It apparently hasn't resolved the issue.

The 147.360+600 repeater is working well. Members may want to move some of their traffic to this repeater.

147.260+600 tone 141.3 is another local repeater with good coverage. We have been offered its use if needed during our own repeater issues.

The WD5EFY/R DMR repeater is on the air on 440.000+5, CC9. The Lufkin Local Talk Group is TG 9, TS 2. East Texas Wide is TG 8206 TS2. **There are also Statewide, Nationwide, and Worldwide TGs on this repeater providing expanded coverage for Technician Class Licensees.** The DMR antenna is at 500 feet providing excellent handheld coverage around the area.

Questions or comments-- Mike WD5EFY, Repeater Trustee and Repeater System Technician.



6. ARRL NEWS:

Digital News:

A new release candidate for *WSJT-X*, v2.2.0-rc2, has been placed on [K1JT's website](#). If you want to help the development team by running the latest and potentially greatest, scroll *past* the GA release, and find the section entitled "Installation packages for *WSJT-X* 2.2.0-rc2." If you're so inclined, join the [WSJT-X group on Groups.io](#) to join the discussion or follow [these guidelines if you need to report an issue](#).

The *WSJT-X* development team has published additional "overflow" frequencies for FT8 - [see the v2.2.0-rc2 release notes](#), here's an excerpt: "On a trial basis, and in response to numerous suggestions from around the world, we have added

a second set of suggested dial frequencies for FT8 on three HF bands and also on 6 meters. The new suggested dial frequencies are 7.071, 10.133, 14.071, and 50.310 MHz."

--ARRL Contest Update May 27, 2020

7. SALE/WANTED:

Do you have something to sell or are you looking for a Ham related item? Send ads to k0yy@arrl.net.

For Sale:

Dual-band J Pole 2/440 MHz antennas, PL-270s \$40 each. Contact Gary Antley KI5LR, gary.antley@consolidated.com

For Sale:

ICOM- IC-80AD for Sale.

Dual Band 140 / 440

DSTAR Ready – Pre-programmed ready to use.

Local repeaters programed.

Speaker Mike HM -131 w/ earphone jack.

Rapid Charger. Belt Clip.

Instruction Manual. New Battery.

New Windows 10 - RT Systems Software

+ Data Cable. \$ 400.00

Contact Steve Jackson KE5CJE

svj7460@gmail.com

For Sale:

2 sections Rohn 25, HF beam, and 11 element

2-meter beam. Contact Jim Porter KC5TF,

kc5tf@yahoo.com or Facebook

8. Additional Ham Radio News:

CLUB SPECIAL EVENTS

Mark your calendars and start making plans.

Forestry Museum K5F, *Social distancing permitting.*

Forestry Museum Lufkin. POC Dayton KG5TKF



ARRL Annual Field Day June 27-28, 2020, Location-- N5YA Contest Station Milam, TX?



DETARC Tailgate Sale

October 2020

Date/Location TBD, POC Terry W5PCJ

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

October 18-20, 2020 POC Dayton KG5TKF

