



The STATIC

April 2017

The monthly newsletter for members and associates of the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club
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The President's Message

As spring comes to the Hill Country now is a good time to get started on that next antenna project. With the solar cycle entering its quiet phase DXing opportunities will be navigating to the lower HF bands. The low bands (160m and 80m) have some challenges for DX, particularly during the summer when QRN increases, so start now on that low band antenna work so you can get in on the action.

It's also a good time to learn more about propagation on the lower HF bands. There are lots of resources on the internet about HF propagation. Google is your friend. I can recommend the VOACAP website <http://www.voacap.com/> for its real time propagation predictions. Don't forget to use the international beacon network to see where openings are appearing. See

Club Calendar

April 5th - 6pm: SKYWARN Training at Hill Country Youth Center (Ag Barn)

April 6th - 7pm: General Meeting of HCARC. The program will be a presentation by Kerry Sandstrom, K5KS about Propagation

April 15th - 9am: Static Committee review meeting at the Red Cross

April 22nd - 9am: New Tech License Class starts at the Red Cross

April 29th - 10am: Field Day planning committee meeting at the Red Cross

May 4th - 7pm: General Meeting of HCARC.

May 13th - 1pm License Testing Session following the Tech Class at the Red Cross

<https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/intro.html> for more details.

If you're a new Tech license holder consider upgrading to General or Extra - a lot of DX hides out in the General and Extra class segments of the HF bands. I'll run an upgrade class later this year if I get enough people who indicate they are interested.

Our station review committee is wrapping up its work and will have several recommendations to make to the membership at our May meeting. The Field Day planning committee had its second meeting and is filling in the details of what equipment we need and work assignments. The Field Day committee could use more volunteers to help us put on another successful Field Day operation this year. Any club member is invited to join either of these committees to help.

It's your club; help support it by being an active member!

73 and good DX,
Dale - K4DG

Welcome to our Newest Members

A warm Hill Country welcome to our newest members:

None to announce this month

Congratulations to the newest license upgrades

A Hill Country Cheer to our latest upgrades:

Jerry Rhodes has restored his old ticket and upgraded to General Class.

Committee Reports

Repeater - Curtis Eastwood AD5UZ

No news since the last report

Upcoming
Conventions

Dayton Hamvention

May 19, 2017

Xenia, Ohio

ARRL Convention

Dayton amateur Radio

Association

<http://www.hamvention.org>

West Gulf Division

Convention

Ham-Com

June 9, 2017

Irving, TX

ARRL Convention

DFW Metroplex Clubs

<http://www.hamcom.org>

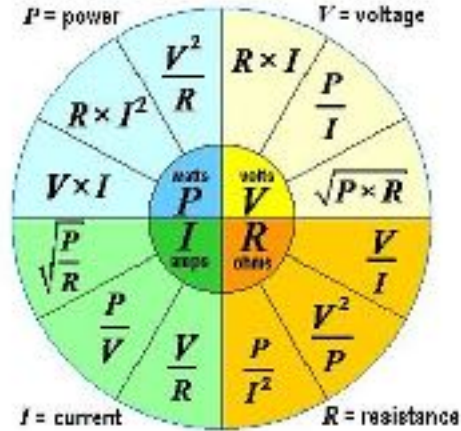
TBD

Red Cross Liaison - Terry Hipskind W0HIP



The Red Cross wrapped up its Disaster Relief effort for the San Antonio and Austin tornados. The storm began in Mexico and traveled through San Antonio, Austin and Tyler Texas before traveling out of state. This single storm contained nine EF0 – EF2 tornados. More than 200 homes were damaged (some, it appears, irreparably) across the path of destruction. Battered power lines left some 44,000 without electricity. 84 Red Cross volunteers provided 956 meals and over 2000 snacks to the First Responders and to those affected by the storm as well as Client Assistance to those affected by the storm.

VE Testing - Fred Gilmore W0LPD



During March 2017 we had only one testing session at our weekly Coffee Club meeting. Congratulations to Jerry Rhodes (ex WB5SHH) for re-entering the hobby. Jerry successfully passed element 2 and will be grandfathered to General Class. His new call is KG5SMH until he gets the old one back under the vanity rules. Jerry flies RC planes using 6 meter ham radio to control them. Be sure to say welcome back when you hear him on the air. Thanks to AF5AO, K5HV, K5NOW, and W5MIG for serving as the VE's.

The next scheduled testing session is scheduled for May 13th at 1:00 PM at the Red Cross, immediately following Dale's club Technician class. Walk-ins are welcome and you can upgrade at this session.

ARES - Terry Hipkind W0HIP

During this month the Kerr County ARES Team received a series of mini-classes on various weather conditions, what to look for, how to get reliable information and how to report.

There is a Sheriff's Department CERT and Red Cross Disaster Assessment Exercise tentatively scheduled for May 25th. We have been asked to provide radio communications for this exercise.

If you are interested in joining the Kerr County ARES Team, please go to the STX Depot Gateway http://arrlstx.org/vault_area/vault_gateway/site_gateway/vault_gateway.php and click on [Register New Member](#).



SKYWARN - Larry Altman N5QGD

The next basic SKYWARN training is scheduled for April 5th at 6pm at the Kerr County Youth Exhibition Center (Ag Barn), 3800 Why 27 East, Just east of Kerrville. All members are invited to attend this free course. Contact Larry for more details at larryaltman@hctc.net.

Club Station Review - Dale Gaudier K4DG

The club station review committee had its third meeting on March 18th. We have inventoried the major equipment and identified surplus items to be auctioned/sold. All computer software has been updated. The problems with the 40m and 80m NVIS antennas have been resolved. The committee will present several recommendations for station improvements at the May club meeting.

Field Day - Frank Edwards KK5IA

The next planning meeting is at 10am on April 29th. All interested members are invited to attend. Even though Field Day will be in the same location as last year it will not necessarily be with the same setup. The committee is discussing and considering some new ideas. Come to the meeting and share your ideas and thoughts.



License Study Class - Dale Gaudier K4DG

A new Technician's License Class will begin at 1pm on April 22, 2017 at the Red Cross Building. Contact Dale Gaudier at k4dg@arrl.net

A General Class Upgrade License Class TBD

An Extra Class Upgrade License Class TBD

NEWS FROM ARRL

New Bands! FCC Issues Amateur Radio Service Rules for 630 Meters and 2,200 Meters

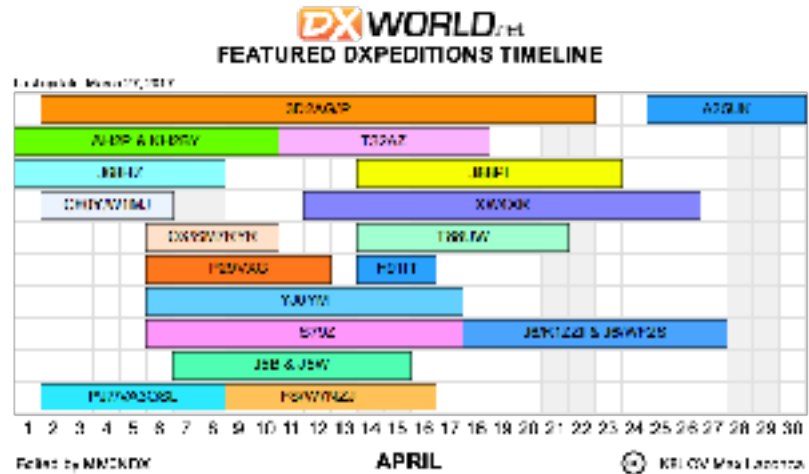
03/31/2017

[CORRECTED to UPDATE information on effective date: 2017-03-31 @ 1315 UTC] It's been a long time coming, but the Amateur Service will get two new bands in the near future. The FCC on March 28 adopted rules that will allow secondary Amateur Radio access to 472-479 kHz (630 meters) and to 135.7-137.8 kHz (2,200 meters), with minor conditions. The FCC *Report and Order (R&O)* spells out the details. It allocates 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and amends Part 97 to provide for Amateur Service use of that band as well as of the previously allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz band. The *R&O* also amends Part 80 rules to authorize radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz band under a ship station license. Just when the new Part 97 rules will go into effect is difficult to determine just yet;

GO TO ARRL WEBSITE FOR THE FULL STORY

DXing News from

DX-World.net



Public Service Events

from <http://sanantoniohams.org/blog/>

The May 2017 Central TX Tour de Cure Bike Ride was cancelled.
Further updates are forthcoming.

Contesting Calendar

from <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

NOTE:
Texas State Parks on the Air will be Apr 8 & 9, 2017
Texas QSO Party will be Sep 23 & 24, 2017

Go to the Hornucopia site above for a full listing of upcoming contests.



HCARC General Information

Repeater: N5HR 146.98(-) Tone 162.2
General Meeting: First Thursday of every month except December at 7pm at the American Red Cross, 333 Earl Garrett, Kerrville, TX. Meet & Greet begins at 6pm
Club Net: Every Monday at 7pm on the N5HR Repeater
Website: www.kerrhams.org
Email Reflector: To sign up go to http://www.kerrhams.org/general_misc.html
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hillcountryARC>
Officers:
President: Dale Gaudier K4DG k4dg@arrl.net
Vice President: Gary Johnson N5BAA n5baa@hctc.net
Treasurer: Dennis Robertson W5FBG robertson@ctesc.net
Secretary: Robert Russell KF5AIE timberrr66@hotmail.com
Static Editor: Starr Center KI5SC starr@arrl.net

The HCARC is an ARRL affiliated club

The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

+CONSIDERATE...He/She never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

+LOYAL...He/She offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/her country, through which Amateur Radio in his/her country is represented nationally and internationally.

+PROGRESSIVE...He/She keeps his/her station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/Her operating practice is above reproach.

+FRIENDLY...He/She operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

+BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

+PATRIOTIC...His/her station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.