



# The GroundWire

## A History Lesson

ISSUE 2015-09

The Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio Club (SWDCARC) was organized in 1975, when personal computers, the internet, and cellular phones weren't used by the general public yet, and the integrated circuit (IC) was still on the horizon of the future. About September or October of 1975, Bill Smith (K5WSF\*), who lived in Duncanville Texas, submitted a news article to the "Duncanville Suburban" newspaper that they published in their weekly edition. The news article concerned the formation of an amateur radio club in Duncanville and gave Bill's phone number to call by anyone interested in meeting with him and helping form this club.

When I called Bill, I learned he didn't know how many would attend the meeting yet, or where everyone would meet. I had some connections in Duncanville, since I was currently President of the Duncanville Jaycees and serving on the Duncanville Civic Center Board, so I volunteered to locate a large meeting place in case there would be a large group. At that time, the city of Duncanville was making the buildings at the de-commissioned Army Nike base, at the corner of Main Street and Wheatland Road (where Armstrong Park is currently located), available to civic groups. So, based on the community service of amateur radio, I was able to secure the auditorium on the de-commissioned base for us to have organizational meetings for this new amateur radio club.

Attending at the first organizational meeting was Bill Smith, Fran Schieffer (WA5WFY), and Tom Frohnepfel (K5EIS), and we had that big auditorium all to ourselves to discuss whether we wanted to continue working on forming this club, how we would go about it, and who would do what. It seemed we all knew different amateur radio operators in the vicinity, so we planned to try to get more of our ham friends involved by calling and asking them. Bill took the lead as coordinator and we began drafting our initial organizational papers consisting of the club's constitution and by-laws. We also decided that we would meet in one of our homes until more people began attending. At our ensuing organizational meetings, the number of attendees slowly grew to approximately 15 and we moved the organizational meetings to public meeting rooms at various locations. We found the attendees were from all over the Southwest part of Dallas county and there was a consensus to sponsor a 2 meter repeater that provided decent coverage to this part of the county.



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*Minutes of General Meeting*



At the November 1975 meeting, we adopted the club name as South West Dallas County Amateur Radio Club (SWDCARC) and a constitution and by-laws to initially govern the club and its activities. On February 17, 1976, the club elected it's first officers: Bill Smith as President, Ron Clement(K7MJX\*) as Vice President, Bill Hammond(K5ZFE\*) as Vice President, Alta Jones(WA5GBX) as secretary-treasurer, and Normand Bougie(AF5R, formerly W5FVX) as Director, and retired the organizational committee. Besides the above, charter members were Jim Nelson(WB5MEF\*), G.B. Olsen(WA5PSY), Ken Doll(WB5SBK), George W. Post(K5VLO\*), Charlene Doll, Kenneth Rushing(WA5LPA\*), Marvin Imboden\*, John E. Strange Jr.(WB5EVK), David Johnston, Ewell Teer(W5BDF), Jerry Teer(WA5VFS\*), Blake Jones, Beulah Wheatley, Glenn Jones(K5JNZ), Leon Wheatley(WA5LOP\*), Edward Paul Jones(K5ZPC), Richard E. Williams(W5UEM\*), Edward J. Kuebert(WA5VUW\*), Richard E. Williams Jr.\*, and Kenneth R. Minor\*, Fran Schieffer, and Tom Frohnafel. The purpose for the club was to promote fraternalism among amateur radio operators in the southwest portion of Dallas County, to increase radio knowledge and operating efficiency, and to conduct club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio.

The earliest newsletter I saved was written by Alta Jones in 1977, who was the second elected SWDCARC president. This newsletter concerned the clubs annual officer elections and by-law changes (additions for the new repeater) at the next regular club meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 1977 at the Redbird Recreation Center. She goes on to state "to say that our club has accomplished a lot our first year is an understatement! We have accomplished the two goals that we set out to do when the club was started in late 1975. Number one being a repeater for two meter operations that will cover the southwest part of Dallas County not previously covered by area repeaters. Our repeater not only covers this part of the county, but Fort Worth, Cleburne, Weatherford, Gainesville, hill topping into Glen Rose and even further on fixed stations.....Secondly, we wanted to set up classes to help teach and license new hams in the area. Thanks to Fran Schieffer and his team consisting of Norm Bougie, Tom Frohnafel, and Randy Ott(WB5SDE\*), and others who volunteered their time and expertise, our classes have exceeded our wildest expectations!.....With these major accomplishments in our first year starting out with only 15 or so members, imagine what we could do this year with the present 58 members if we pull together and set our minds to it!!". And she ends with "bring a friend" to the meeting. I believe Alta may have been President for 2 years and then Jimmy Miles(KA5V, formerly WB5WZG) followed as President. I also remember our club meeting at the Air Haven building at Red Bird Airport, Wyatt's Cafeteria at US67 and Hampton Road, and at Wycliff Bible Translators just off Camp Wisdom Road and Clark Road.

I believe our 2 meter repeater has always been open, had the same frequency pair we have now, and had a phone patch. However, I can't recall where it has been located or if it has used any other calls, but I believe an early repeater trustee was Clif Holland(KA5IPF) and he can probably tell us. Hams, using a phone patch in conjunction with their 2 meter repeaters, were the original cell phone experimenters.

The first couple of field days were in a pasture on a club members property in Ovilla. The club used the call K5EIS initially since they felt it was a good CW call, but the SSB guys made me nervous with their 807's and using the phonetics "elephants in snow" (as I was sure hoping they always said snow). Other later field days were at Parkerville Park in Cedar Hill on US67 (at the foot of the channel 11 tower), on property outside Wilmer that belonged to the Charles Ott(W5OWA\*), and down US67 to Mt. Lebanon Road to Texas Plume Road at a county park, Armstrong Park in Duncanville, the soccer fields at the park in Cedar Hill, and the Wycliff Bible Translators campus.

At one time, the club bought the used trailer from an 18-wheeler tractor/trailer rig (no truck, just the trailer). We air conditioned it and set up several operating positions inside. It served as both a storage container for the club's equipment and as an operation vehicle. All we had to do was locate a truck to pull it when we wanted to operate from it. We used it many times for Field Day. I can't recall where we actually stored the trailer itself, but we had to inspect, license, and insure it to pull it on the roads, so we finally got rid of it when we decided it was too much of a liability (unsafe for road travel).

Come September, one of the club members would haul a smoker on wheels to the pavilion at Liberty Hill Park on Navarro Mills Lake and the club would have a weekend campout and members would bring their own drinks and food to cook and the club would have an HF station setup for making contacts (just for fun of it). In October we would have the "Annual Glenn Jones Memorial Side of the Road Armadillo Hunt and Chili Cookoff" which just happened to be the same weekend that we would operate the CQ magazine's Worldwide SSB DX contest.

This is probably more than enough SWDCARC nostalgia for this newsletter article, so I'll give everyone a break and stop. I will try to locate and bring some pictures and videos of some of SWDCARC early activities and give contact info of some of the former members so the club can invite them to the October meeting and anniversary, in case you have further interest (and also so they can corroborate my recollections).

73,  
K5EIS  
Tom

# Upcoming Activities



**September 1st**

Board Meeting

**September 15th**

Club Meeting

**September 25th**

*Groundwire* submissions due

Club Breakfast *every* Saturday 7:00AM @ Acapulco's in DeSoto

Monday Night Nets every Monday @ 8:00PM (147.060 MHz / + /110.9)

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## Septembers Program

Recap of Field Day 2015 by Rick (KJ5UY)

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# Elmer Directory



|                          |                |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| APRS                     | Jerry (KB6OJE) |                |
| Antennas                 | Paul (KD5IVP)  |                |
| Contesting               | Jerry (KB6OJE) |                |
| CW                       | Russ (KX5G)    | Paul (KD5IVP)  |
| DF'ing                   | Rick (KJ5UY)   |                |
| DX                       |                |                |
| JPole Construction       | Barry (K5BSM)  | James (KF5RBN) |
| Kit Building & Soldering |                | Paul (KD5IVP)  |
| Net Operations           | Russ (KX5G)    |                |
| Portable Operation       | Gene (N5PKZ)   |                |
| PSK31                    | Jerry (KB6OJE) |                |
| QSL'ing                  |                |                |
| Radio Bargains           | Barry (K5BSM)  |                |
| Satellites               | Bob (KA4JSQ)   |                |
| Traffic Handling         | Russ (KX5G)    |                |
| WSPR                     |                |                |

The above club members have volunteered to help you get started or answer questions to help you enjoy these areas of our radio hobby. If you wish to volunteer your expertise, contact Bill (N5TXN) to get on the list.

## Financial Report ... August, 2015



| <b>August-15</b>              | Income         | Expense       | Balance           | Petty Cash |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>           |                |               |                   |            |
| Beginning Balance             |                |               | \$1,079.98        |            |
| INCOME/EXPENSE                |                |               |                   |            |
| Dues Income-2015              | \$6.25         |               |                   |            |
| ARRL Renewal Income-2015      |                |               |                   |            |
|                               |                |               |                   |            |
| Transfer From Matl. Property  |                |               |                   |            |
| Transfer Petty Cash income    |                |               |                   |            |
| TOTAL INCOME                  | \$6.25         |               |                   |            |
| EXPENSES                      |                |               |                   |            |
| ARRL Renewal Ck               |                |               |                   |            |
|                               |                |               |                   |            |
| Transfer to Special Events    |                |               |                   |            |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                |                | \$ -          |                   |            |
| Ending Balance                |                |               | \$1,086.23        |            |
|                               |                |               |                   |            |
| <b>Special Events Fund</b>    |                |               |                   |            |
| Beginning Balance             |                |               | \$0.00            |            |
| INCOME/EXPENSE                |                |               |                   |            |
| Trans from General Fund       |                |               |                   |            |
|                               |                |               |                   |            |
| TOTAL INCOME                  | \$0.00         |               |                   |            |
| EXPENSES                      |                |               |                   |            |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                |                | \$0.00        |                   |            |
| Ending Balance                |                |               | \$0.00            |            |
|                               |                |               |                   |            |
| <b>Material Property Fund</b> |                |               |                   |            |
| Beginning Balance             |                |               | \$1,422.87        |            |
| INCOME/EXPENSE                |                |               |                   |            |
| Dues Income-2015              | \$6.25         |               |                   |            |
|                               |                |               |                   |            |
| Transfer from General Fund    |                |               |                   |            |
| TOTAL INCOME                  | \$6.25         |               |                   |            |
| EXPENSES                      |                |               |                   |            |
| Transfer to General Fund      |                |               |                   |            |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                |                | \$0.00        |                   |            |
| Ending Balance                |                |               | \$1,429.12        |            |
|                               |                |               |                   |            |
| <b>August Balance</b>         | <b>\$12.50</b> | <b>\$0.00</b> | <b>\$2,515.35</b> |            |

### 2015 Board Members

#### President

Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)

#### Vice-President

James Jackson (KF5RBN)

#### Treasurer

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

#### Secretary

Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)

#### Directors

Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)

Gene Boulton (N5PKZ)

Harold Wheat (K5HDW)

### Committee Positions

#### Repeater Trustee

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

#### Repeater Committee Chair

Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

#### Web Master

OPEN

MN<sup>2</sup>

### Monday Night Net

**Net Time 8:00PM**

**147.060(+) Primary**

**444.500(+) Alternate**

## Minutes of Board Meeting ... August 4, 2015



The meeting was called to order by Barry (KF5JPE) at 6:35 PM.  
Invocation was given by Johnny (KJ5LB).

### **Executive Board members present :**

#### Officers

Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)  
James Jackson (KF5RBN)  
Jerry Keltner KB6OJE)  
Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)

#### Directors

Harold Wheat (K5HDW)  
Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)  
Gene Boulton (N5PKZ) - absent

**Guests:** Johnny (KJ5LB), Rick (KJ5UY)

**Minutes of previous month's Board Meeting:** Motion by Wayne (KE4SGS) with second by Jerry (KB6OJE). Approved as printed in the Groundwire.

**Treasurer's Report for previous Board meeting:** Motion by Pat (KB5YPP) with second by James (KF5RBN). Approved as printed in the Groundwire and with end of July balance of \$2,502.85.

### COMMITTEES/ REPORTS

**Repeaters:** All are working ok.

**VE Session:** None in July. A session is scheduled for 18 August.

**EOC:** Nothing to report.

**Membership:** Application received from July Vergara with payment. Motion by Jerry (KB6OJE) with second by Wayne (KE4SGS) to approve her application; all were in favor. Jerry sent an email in April to all members who were in arrears on their dues. Another message will be sent notifying those not paid that they will be dropped from the membership list.

**Net:** There was light participation in the Net on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Web:** The membership list is being updated. The committee will begin functioning soon.

**Groundwire:** All submissions for the Groundwire need to be in **MS Word** format and sent to Bill (N5TXN) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Mailing list for the Groundwire needs updating.

**Field Day Planning:** No report.

**Material Property:** No report.

**Programs:** The August 18<sup>th</sup> program will be Leo Wrobel presenting ElectroMagnetic Pulse (EMP) and how to protect radio equipment. At the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting Rick (KJ5UY) will present a recap of Field Day 2015.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None to discuss.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board discussed considering a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the SWDCARC in October that would include a special event station and chili cook-off. More information to come.
2. The program for November might be on CERT. The December program will be the annual Christmas Dinner/White Elephant gift/HAM of the Year event.
2. Fox Hunt – Tentatively scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Jerry (KB6OJE) at 7:30 p.m.

## General Membership Meeting ... August 18, 2015



The meeting was called to order by Barry (KF5JPE) at 6:30 PM.

Invocation was given by Paul (KD5IVP).

### **Executive Board members present:**

#### **Officers**

Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)

James Jackson (KF5RBN) - absent

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)

#### **Directors**

Harold Wheat (K5HDW)

Gene Boulton (N5PKZ)

Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)

### **Name/Call Sign Introductions.**

**Guests:** Sharon (K5SMW) and Leo (KW5P) Wrobel, and Toni Dippery (WN5SVE).

**Program:** **Electromagnetic Pulse and Solar Flares** by Leo Wrobel (KW5P).

**VE's and test takers to test Session** : None tonight.

### **Business Meeting**

**Minutes of previous General Meeting:** Motion by Johnny (KJ5LB) with second by Jerry (KB6OJE). Approved as printed in the Groundwire.

**Treasure Report of previous General Meeting:** Motion by Johnny (KJ5LB) with second by Wayne (KE4SGS). Balance at end of July was \$2,502.85. Approved as reported and printed in the Groundwire.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Repeaters:** Both 2m and 440 are working fine. The intermittent dead-keyer has not been as active lately. Everyone is reminded to remember to ID at the beginning, end, as well as about every 10 minutes during a QSO. There is a 2m backup repeater ready at the site if it is needed. The Yaesu digital backup repeater has been programmed by Bill (N5TXN) and can operate on either 2m or 440. The Yaesu digital backup is in the possession of Bill (N5TXN) pending securing an acceptable site for installation.

**VE Session:** None last month, or tonight.

**EOC:** The Duncanville EOC is now equipped with two operational radios, thanks to the efforts of Wayne (KE4SGS). No report from DeSoto or Cedar Hill.

**Membership:** Gene (N5PKZ) announced the approval by the Board of the application of Judy Vergara.

**Net:** The 17 Aug. Net Control was Pat (KB5YPP) with 9 check-ins. Russ (KX5G) was Net Control on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> with moderate participation.

**Web:** Nothing new. The Committee is working and may have some news next month. The By-Laws need updating to include social media content, etc.

**Groundwire:** The latest one is on the Web site. Submissions to the Groundwire are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and should be sent to either Bill (N5TXN) or Barry (KF5JPE)

**Field Day Planning:** The group has not met yet.

**Material Property:** Wayne (KE4SGS) has the GOTA Station and has done an inventory of all elements. The self storage units will be done when the weather cools. A roll-up



solar panel belonging to Floyd (KC5QBC) was misplaced at Field Day. Anyone who has information is asked to contact Floyd or a Board member.

**Programs:** September 15 will be a recap of Field Day 2015 by Rick (KJ5UY). October 20 will be a look back at the history of the SWDCARC presented by Fred (AA5MN) with Tom (K5EIS). We are planning a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with special event station and Chili cook-off on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October. More details will be coming.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The club email listing needs updating. Check to be sure your email is correct so you will receive the Groundwire and any other club communications.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Technician Classes will begin 12 September for seven Saturdays at the Senior Center in Waxahachie on Hwy 77. Contact Tom (K5EIS) who will be teaching the classes.  
General Classes will be held 5, 12, and 19 September at the Government Center in Grand Prairie. Contact Ben (K5NEB) who will be teaching those classes.

**ADJOURN :** Motion by Johnny (KJ5LB) at 8:10 p.m.