



# The GroundWire

## The President's Corner

February 2018



“The transmitter hunt held at Armstrong Park on January 20 was a lot of fun! It seems, so far, that wind and transmitter hunts go hand-in-hand. We again enjoyed having some good folks from other clubs join us. There is always something interesting to learn, and you never know how the transmitter is going to be disguised!

Another fun thing that we did this month was learning about the intricacies of soldering! So important to do it right! Then you can build neat stuff and fix a loose wire in any number of electronic gadgets.

What are you going to do this year in Amateur Radio? What skills do you plan to improve? How do you think you can help someone else get started or help them improve their understanding of some area of the hobby?

Share what you do, the interesting contacts you make, and your successes and/or failures in projects. That is how everyone grows and learns in Amateur Radio!”

73  
Pat  
(KB5YPP)

### Visitors Welcome!

#### General Meetings

3rd Tuesday

6:30 p.m.

#### Board Meetings

1st Tuesday

6:30 p.m.

Windsor Park Baptist Church  
750 W. Pleasant Run Rd.  
DeSoto, TX 75115

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### REPEATERS

#### VHF 2 Meter

W5WB

147.060/+/-110.9

Input f= 147.660

#### UHF 70 cm

W5AUJ

444.500/+/-110.9

Input f= 449.500

Monday night nets at 8:00 p.m.

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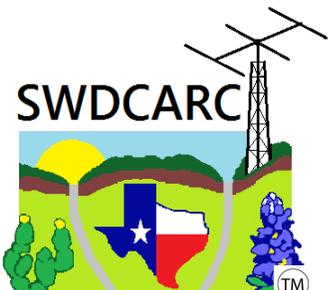
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# Happy Valentine's Day!

## Invite a Friend to the Meeting & Breakfast

### Club Calendar

February 6th 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting  
 February 20th 6:30 p.m. General Meeting  
 March 6th 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting  
 March 20th p.m. General Meeting



Weekly: Mondays 8:00 p.m. Informal Nets  
 Saturdays 7:00 a.m. Breakfast, Alcapulo's Restaurant  
 225 E. Beltline Rd., DeSoto, TX 75115



### VE Testing

VE Testing will be conducted monthly **by appointment.**  
 If you would like to test for the  
 Technician, General, or Extra,  
 please contact Ben (K5NEB)

(See next page for class information)



**It's time to pay your annual dues! 3**

Payments may be mailed to:

**Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 381023  
Duncanville, TX 75138-1023**

Licensed members—\$25 Family member\* (non-licensed)

\* Non-licensed family members have no voting privileges

**Register for *FREE* Ham Classes** (Limit 20 per class)

### **Amateur Radio Technician or General Classes**

**Technician: JAN 20th, 27th, FEB 3rd 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. RSVP JAN 12th**

**General: APR 14th, 21st, & 28th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—RSVP APR 6th**

**Contact Ben Barber: 972-262-3114 or K5neb@sbcglobal.net**

**Classes held at: Charles V. England Public Safety Training Complex**

**310 W. College St., Grand Prairie, TX**

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**Purchase a book from W5Yi at 2000 E. Randol Mill Rd., #608A, Arlington, TX**

**Or**

**Send a cashier's check or MO for \$22 (Technician) or \$25 (General) to**

**Ben Barber, PO Box 530896, Grand Prairie, TX 75053**

**(Book will be brought to you at the first class)**

**If you have a book by the RSVP date, let Ben know and he will email a pretest for you to work on.**

**NOTE: ALL 3 CLASSES ARE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LICENSES. FCC Exam Fee = \$14**

## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

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**February 17th:** 42nd Annual Storm Spotter Training, Granville Arts Center, 300 N. 5th Street, Garland, TX 75040

**June 8 to 10th:** Ham-Com 2018, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX 75039 [www.hamcom.org](http://www.hamcom.org)

**June 23rd to 24th:** SWDCARC Field Day Event, DeSoto Fire Station

**If you are aware of upcoming events,  
please let us know!**

The newly updated SWDCARC web site is coming soon!

If anyone with web skills would like to assist in keeping the site current,  
please contact Pat (KB5YPP)



**Show off your Club spirit!**

**4 x 6 Adhesive-backed sticker**

**\$1.00 each**

**3 1/4" x 2 1/2" Embroidered patch**

**\$5.00 each**

***Available for purchase  
the next club meeting.***

# January 2018 Foxhunt

By Rick Ellis (KJ5UY)



Much to my surprise, after not doing this very much for the past few years, I attended the foxhunt in December and was first to the hidden transmitter. Which of course means I'm the one that gets to hide it the next hunt. Well, we picked the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of January and wouldn't you know it, the weather decided to be uncooperative. Not to be deterred, we postponed for a week and sure enough, the subsequent Saturday dawned a beautiful but brisk January morning.

Knowing what a devious bunch we can be, as I left the house I turned off the APRS in my pickup truck to keep anyone from tracking me as I went to the park and hid the fox shortly before everyone else showed up. If fact....wait a minute...I'll be right back. (pause) As I write this I realized I hadn't plugged the APRS back in so I just ran out to the truck and powered it back up.

As I watched the weather forecast during the week, I was concerned we might have some light rain during the foxhunt, so I devised a elegant scheme (elegant as in the engineering use of elegant to mean serving two functions at once) to both conceal the transmitter and protect it from the weather. I took an empty half liter Diet Dr. Pepper plastic bottle (and you all know how much I love Diet Dr. Pepper!!) cut off the base and wrapped it in camouflage duct tape. In went the transmitter and once the base was taped back on, everything was snug and dry and a little less obvious.

So, I get to the park and it didn't take long to find a nice bush to toss this into before heading over to meet everyone. I must admit, I was pleasantly surprised to see so many participants this month (and hopefully, we can get this to grow and grow!). At 8:30 am, the hounds were released and everyone started waving antennas about, trying to hone in on the fox and I was sure this was going to be a short hunt, but a few minutes later, he walked past the bushes and kept going!

## Foxhunt (Con't.)

Now there are two really good lessons to learn here: The first is don't keep standing in the same place as the fox cycles on and off. If you didn't get a good resolution on the direction from where you are standing, it won't get any better the next time by waiting there. Move to somewhere else. And if you did get a good fix, move somewhere else so that when the transmitter comes back on, you get a different angle on it for triangulation.

The other lesson is this: In between fox cycles, use the good old Mark 1 Eyeball, particularly if you think you might be close. Beat the bushes, look up in trees, etc., because you may find a clue on the 390 – 700 nm band to help you locate the fox between cycles.

And that's what I saw folks doing, moving around. Eventually, I saw Colette/W5CTW and Wayne/KE4SGS wander into the clump of bushes where I'd tossed the fox, so I know they'd find it. According to their report, they both saw it but Colette was closer so she grabbed the #1 ticket! (although, I wonder if some of those holiday shopping instincts kicked in and she dove and elbowed her way to get there first!!!).

### Here are the results:

- #1 Colette Wong / W5CTW
- #2 Wayne Schier / KE4SGS
- #3 Jerry Keltner / KB6OJE
- #4 Johnny Roberson / KJ5LB
- #5 Judy Vergara / WA5EDD

### In addition to our club members, several members from the Johnson County ARC:

William Rantalla / KG5JIV  
 Cody Rantalla / KG5TZX  
 Tim Irish / KC5SWT

**See everyone at next month's foxhunt!**

**Date and time to be announced.**

**73,  
 Rick  
 (KJ5UY)**



**Editor's note:** If you have never participated in a Foxhunt, give this a try! There are plenty of expert Elmer hunters that are more than willing to share their skills. The winds were high and the temperatures crisp but, the camaraderie was warm!

# Amateur Radio Overview to Navy Sea Cadets

By Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

I had a request from the commander of the Navy Sea Cadets stationed at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base-Ft Worth to present an overview of what Amateur Radio is. The presentation was scheduled for noon, Saturday, 20 January, 2018 at their training site.

Contacted Rick, KJ5UY, and he was gracious enough to prepare an excellent power point presentation and agreed to make the presentation. After the Fox Hunt Saturday morning, Rick & I drove to Ft Worth to make the presentation, arriving about 10:45 am.

When we met with the Commander, Howard Fields, he told us that the days schedule had be shuffled because of Congress not voting to extend the budget. Commander Fields said that the two day training the Cadets were scheduled to do was being cut short to one day. He, also, told us that all Reservist that were doing their drill this weekend were to be sent back home at noon. Could we start the presentation at 11:00am for about 45 minutes and then we would go to lunch with the Sea Cadets at the Mess Hall and be back at 1:00pm to continue presentation. After lunch they asked us to s t r e t c h i t o u t .

Rick was able to fill the additional time without any one being able to tell that he was going beyond the prepared presentation. (Anyone who knows Rick, knows he can talk—a lot!!!).

We got the signal to end the presentation about 2pm. The 39 Sea Cadets seem to be interested in amateur radio. At first they sat through the presentation without saying or expressing much. They didn't even laugh at the jokes. Finally, though, they loosened up and began to participate and eventually began to ask some really good questions.

Their adult officers/staff also indicated some interest and there was some discussion of them getting their amateur radio licenses and maybe getting a club station license. The staff asked if we could put together a class for them to get their license. We assured them that it was something that we could do.

73,  
Jerry  
(KB6OJE)



# Need Help? Ask an Elmer!

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Thanks to the following folks that have volunteered to share their knowledge and time in helping others!

CATEGORY	PRIMARY	CALL	SECONDARY	CALL
APRS	Jerry Keltner	KB6OJE		
Antennas	Paul Dryer	KD5IVP		
Contesting	Jerry Keltner	KB6OJE		
CW	Russ Thompson	KX5G	Paul Dryer	KD5IVP
DF'ing	Rick Ellis	KJ5UY		
DX				
JPole Construction	Barry McCoy	K5BSM	James Jackson	KF5RBN
Kit Building & Soldering	Paul Dryer	KD5IVP		
Net Operations	Russ Thompson	KX5G		
Portable Operation	Gene Boulton	N5PKZ		
PSK31	Jerry Keltner	KB6OJE		
QSL'ing				
Radio Bargains	Barry McCoy	K5BSM		
Satellites	Bob Best	KA4JSQ		
Traffic Handling	Russ Thompson	KX5G		
WSPR				
NPOTA				
Repeater Use & Etiquette	Johnny Roberson	KJ5LB		

**What is YOUR specialty?**

If you would like to add your name to the list, please send an email to [GroundwireEditor@gmail.com](mailto:GroundwireEditor@gmail.com) with your name, call, & category of interest.

# SWDCARC FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 2018

**GENERAL FUND**

	Income	Expense	Balance	Petty Cash
Beginning Balance			\$2,427.01	
<b>INCOME:</b>				
2018 Dues	\$125.00			
KF5AZL Donation	\$25.00			
<b>TOTAL IN-COME</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>			
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Windsor Park Baptist Church		\$300.00		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>		
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$2,277.01</b>	

**SPECIAL EVENTS FUND**

	Income	Expense	Balance	Petty Cash
Beginning Balance			\$0.00	
<b>INCOME:</b>				
<b>TOTAL IN-COME</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>			
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	

**MATERIAL PROPERTY FUND**

	Income	Expense	Balance	Petty Cash
Beginning Balance			\$3,115.12	
<b>INCOME:</b>				
2018 Dues	\$125.00			
<b>TOTAL IN-COME</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>			
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$3,240.12</b>	

<b>CASH BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2018</b>	<b>\$5,517.13</b>
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**2018 Board Members**

**President**

Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)

**Vice-President**

Don Dewberry (K5DEW)

**Treasurer**

Tommy Brough (KB5TB)

**Secretary**

Colette Wong (W5CTW)

**Directors**

Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Les Wong (K5ITO)

**Committee Positions**

**Repeater Trustee**

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

**Repeater Committee Chair**

Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)

**Newsletter Editors**

Judy Vergara (WA5EDD)

**Web Master**

# Minutes of Board Meeting

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## SWDCARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Pat at 6:30 p.m. at the Windsor Park Baptist Church in DeSoto, Texas. Invocation was given by Don (K5DEW).

### Executive Board members:

#### Officers

President - Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)  
Vice-Pres - Don Dewberry (K5DEW)  
Treasurer - Tommy Brough (KB5TB)  
Secretary - Colette Wong (W5CTW)  
**Guests:** Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC)

#### Directors

Program - Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)  
Membership - Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)  
Property - Les Wong (K5ITO)  
Repeater Trustee - Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

### Minutes of previous month's Board Meeting:

Motion by Jerry (KB6OJE) with second by Wayne (KE4SGS).  
Approved as printed in the Groundwire.

### Treasurer's Report for previous Board meeting:

Motion by Wayne (KE4SGS) with second by Tommy (KB5TB).  
Approved as printed in the Groundwire.

### COMMITTEES/ REPORTS

**Repeaters:** C.H. - O.K.

**Backup** - Yaesu Fusions in Duncanville is now installed and working.

**VE Session:** None.

**EOC:** Nothing to report.

**Membership:** One incomplete application was received and is pending additional information.

**Net:** No information on the last net is available. Net control schedule has been set and a suggestion was made to consider setting up the Monday net to include a formal traffic net.

**Web:** Nothing new to report, it is still a work in progress.

**Groundwire:** All submissions for the Groundwire need to be in MS Word format and sent to Judy (WA5EDD) at [groundwireeditor@gmail.com](mailto:groundwireeditor@gmail.com), or Pat (KB5YPP) by the 25th of the month.

**Field Day Planning:** Don (K5DEW) confirmed that we are on the calendar with the DeSoto Fire Training Center.

**Material Property:** Some interest has been shown in the Home Brew UHF 5 watt repeater. Wayne (KE4SGS) will continue to communicate with the interested party.

**Programs:** January will be the soldering session with Johnny (KJ5LB) and Wayne (KE4SGS). February - emergency operation, April - Head for the Hills, June - Field Day, Oct - Chili Dinner, Dec - Christmas Party, all other months are still being planned.

### OLD BUSINESS

Get certificates delivered to Russ (KX5G) and Anthony (KD5TKN) - Jerry (KB6OJE) will mail the certificates.

Donation to WPBC for meeting room/location. Jerry (KB6OJE) made a motion to donate \$300.00, it was seconded by Johnny (KJ5LB). The motion carried.

MOU with Duncanville regarding Yaesu Backup repeater. Tommy (KB5TB) and Jerry (KB6OJE) will follow up with the city.

### NEW BUSINESS

The procurement of a communications trailer was discussed. Don (K5DEW) will continue to research.

Banner w/logo for bike rally and other events. A new club banner that includes the new logo and additional club information was discussed. Don (K5DEW), Pat (KB5YPP), and Colette (W5CTW) will work on suggestions for the new banner.

The Board discussed changing the Membership dues for non-Regular member to \$10 per year. These membership classes include: Associate member, Affiliate Member, and Student Member. Dues for Family Members are currently \$10.00. The motion was made by Johnny (KJ5LB) and seconded by Wayne (KE4SGS). The motion carried.

Signatures for Resource One Credit Union checking account will be updated to include Tommy Brough (KB5TB) as Treasurer and Pat Roberson (KB5YPP) as President. All other names will be removed.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Wayne (KE4SGS) at 7:44 p.m.

## SWDCARC General Membership Meeting Minutes 16 January 2018

The meeting was called to order by Pat (KB5YPP) at 6:35 PM. at the Windsor Park Baptist Church in DeSoto, TX.  
Invocation was given by: Pat (KB5YPP)

### Executive Board members:

#### Officers

President - Pat Roberson (KB5YPP)  
Vice-Pres - Don Dewberry (K5DEW) absent  
Treasurer – Tommy Brough (KB5TB) absent  
Secretary – Colette Wong (W5CTW)

#### Directors

Program – Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)  
Membership – Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)  
Property – Les Wong (K5ITO)  
Repeater Trustee - Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

**Name/Call Sign Introductions** – a sign in sheet was circulated.

**Guests:** Justin Lentz (KF5IVJ)

**Program:** Soldering project - Wayne (KE4SGS) and Johnny (KJ5LB).

## Business Meeting

### **Minutes of previous month's General Meeting:**

Motion by Johnny (KJ5LB) with second by Ron (AE5OZ). Approved as printed in *The Groundwire*.

### **Treasurer's Report for previous General meeting:**

Motion by Johnny (KJ5LB) with second by Ron (AE5OZ). Approved as printed in *The Groundwire*.

## COMMITTEES / REPORTS

**Repeaters:** Repeaters at Cedar Hill the tone is 110.0 for both 2m and 440.

Repeaters at Armstrong Park the tone is 100.0 for both 2m and 440.

**VE Session:** Ben (K5NEB) will be having a test session February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Grand Prairie at 9AM and needs a W5YI VE.

**EOC:** The radio office from Cedar Hill sends all weather bulletins to Johnny (KJ5LB). Johnny (KJ5LB) will forward the report to anyone who wishes to receive them.

**Membership:** One application was received at the General Meeting.

**Net:** The January 15<sup>th</sup> net had eleven check-in. There were nine check-ins for the January 8<sup>th</sup> net.

**Web:** progress . . . coming soon!

**Groundwire:** All submissions for the Groundwire need to be in MS Word format and sent to Judy (WA5EDD) at [groundwireeditor@gmail.com](mailto:groundwireeditor@gmail.com), or Pat (KB5YPP) by the 25th of the month.

**Field Day Planning:** Field Day activities will be held at the DeSoto Fire Training Center on Wintergreen Road.

**Transmitter (Fox) Hunt:** the transmitter (Fox) hunt will be the 20th at Armstrong Park - Rick (KJ5UY) hiding

**Material Property:** nothing new.

**Programs:** February – emergency operation.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Banking:** A motion was made to remove C. Jerry Keltner and Barry Fulfer from the Resource One Credit Union account and update the signatures to Pat Roberson and Tommy Brough. The motion was made by Johnny (KJ5LB) and seconded by Wayne (KE4SGS). The motion carried.

**Misc:** Club logo adhesive stickers and embroidered patches are available for purchase by members. Stickers are \$1.00 each and Patches are \$5.00 each.

## NEW BUSINESS

None

**Adjourn:** Motion by Wayne (KE4SGS) at 6:53 p.m.