

Hurst Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 293, Hurst, TX 76053



<http://w5hrc.org>
<http://www.meetup.com/HurstARC/>

Hurst Amateur Radio Club Newsletter March, 2014

Presidents Letter By Craig Leikis

Board of Directors

Frank Schnell – W5EFZ
Gene Clardy – W5KXC
Tonya Leikis—K5TGL
Mike Haefner – N5YM
Ray Drum – K5EJF
Bub Mueller—K5BUB

Newsletter

Denise Lucas—N5WTK
dg@deniselucas.com

Life Members

Mike Roden W5JR
Charles Penry WA5VHU
(Began our 2 Meter Repeater)

HARC Repeaters

147.100 T-110.9 W5HRC
442.850 T-110.9 KM5HT

Monthly Reminders

Meetings are held every
3rd Monday of the
month

Meeting location:

Fire Station #2
Pipeline Road
Hurst, Texas

VE Testing:

1st Thursday W5YI
W5EFZ 817-267-3860
3rd Thursday ARRL
N5YM 817-480-4425

Spring is in the Air

by Craig N5LNX

It seems as though winter is finally starting to loosen its grip and spring is asserting itself a little more each day. Although the weather has been a little schizophrenic lately as this yearly struggle plays out, it's comforting to know that spring will ultimately prevail.

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. It's a time of renewal. For me, that means spring cleaning and sorting through the stuff I've accumulated over the past year and organizing, de-cluttering, and ridding myself of that which I have no use anymore.

I also use this as a time to make sure I'm prepared for the upcoming severe weather season. I make sure the 72 hour kits and go-kit gear are ready to go. I check that the "tornado shelter" has all of the supplies we might need and that everyone knows the plan in case the worst should happen.

I hope you're looking forward to spring as well. What projects are you working on?

73,

Craig

Club Officers

Craig Leikis – N5LNX
President
David Woods—KF5NGO
Vice-President
Gary Moncrief -KA5KPC
Secretary
Everett Bailey –KE5ZHU
Treasurer



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ARRL membership: Is 25% asking too much?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In the March 2014 issue of QST, ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, makes a big deal of the fact that ARRL membership is now up to 162,200 members and is growing at a rate of about 1% per year. After patting the ARRL on the back about this, WJ1B launches into a discussion of the different programs that WJ1B feels have contributed to the membership growth.

Let's take another look at the numbers, though. As the editorial points out, 10,300 ARRL members are international members, meaning that 151,900 U.S. hams are ARRL members. Another article in the March issue, "New Licenses," notes that the total number of licensed radio amateurs at the end of 2013 was 717,201. If you do the math, you'll find that only slightly more than one in five licensed radio amateurs are ARRL members. I personally don't think that's so hot, and it's certainly not worthy of all the self-congratulation going on in this editorial.

The licensing article also points out that "the amateur radio population in the US grew by slightly more than 1 percent last year." That being the case, ARRL membership has grown at about the same rate. If all the programs noted in WJ1B's editorial were so effective, wouldn't you expect membership growth to be at least 2%?

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. I think the ARRL should set a goal to enroll at least 25% of licensed radio amateur as members. I think that this is achievable, and it seems to me that any group calling itself "the national organization for amateur radio" should have at least one in four amateur radio licensees as part of its membership.

What do you think? Is reaching 25% asking too much? If you think I'm right, please reach out to your ARRL division director and tell him so. More members would mean that the ARRL could deliver more services and have more clout in Washington. That sounds like a good thing to me.

When he's not worrying about ARRL membership, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

April Birthdays

George Shotwell	April 2
Hurbert King	April 4
Lawrence Allred	April 9

Upcoming Events—March/April

HARC uses Meetup.Com to schedule and manage most events. Joining this group (it's free!) is the best way to stay informed of upcoming events as well as stay in touch with other attendees.

March

3/1—Tech Talk—NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Service)

3/06—Volunteer Exam Testing, as needed

3/08—Saturday Group

3/15—Saturday Group

3/17—HARC Monthly Business Meeting

3/20—Volunteer Exam Testing, as needed

3/22—Saturday Group

3/29—Saturday Group

April

4/03—Volunteer Exam Testing, as needed

4/05—Extra Study/Saturday Group

4/12—Code Class/Saturday Group

4/17—Volunteer Exam Testing, as needed

4/19—Extra Study/Saturday Group

4/21—HARC Monthly Business Meeting

4/26—Code Class/Saturday Group

Recipe Corner

Please send recipes to DG@DeniseLucas.com

Irish Soda Bread in a Skillet

Ingredients:

- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. In a cup or small bowl, stir together the milk and vinegar. Let stand 10 minutes or until curdled.

In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, salt, and baking soda. Stir in the curdled milk mixture until smooth. Scrape the dough out of the bowl onto a floured surface and shape into a boule. Place into a cast iron skillet. Bake for 15 minutes in a preheated oven, or until the crust feels firm to the touch.

Just a Chuckle

It seems that there was a little old church out in the countryside: painted white and with a high steeple.

One Sunday, the pastor noticed that his church needed painting. He checked out the Sunday ads and found a paint sale. The next day, he went into town and bought a gallon of white paint. He went back out to the church and began the job.

He got the first side done. It looked great but he had already noticed he had used up half a gallon. He didn't want to run back into town so he used some thinner he found in the shed out back. He thinned down his paint and finished the remaining three sides. That night it rained, it rained hard. The next morning the pastor went to admire his work and he saw the first side looked great, but the other three sides had washed away. The pastor looked up in the sky and cried out, "What shall I do?" A voice came back from the heavens saying, "Repaint and thin no more!"

Swap and Sell

In the spirit of recycling and spring cleaning, we are offering a swap and shop section at the newsletter. Please send item descriptions, and what you'll take in trade or cash to dg@deniselucas.com for inclusion in the newsletter. HARC is not responsible for any trades or sells that occur.

Radio Shack 10M Ham/CB Radio Antenna, 21-869, Half Wave \$25.00 or trade for whatever. Contact Denise at 817-905-6161.

ARRL Field

28-29, 2014

Day is the single most popular on-held annually in Canada. On weekend of



Day is June ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-held annually in the US and the fourth June each

year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups, or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and most of all, FUN! The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in less than ideal situations. We use the same skills when we help with events. HARC will be participating again this year in Field day. Look for information soon.

Dah Dits from Denise

- The newsletter is now available via email. To receive an electronic copy, please send email to dg@deniselucas.com. Our goal is to reduce the number of paper copies we use each month.
- Over the next few months we will be integrating a bi-weekly blog. Keep an eye out!



HURST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2014

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President Craig (N5LNX).
- INVOCATION** Butch Seaman (KC5ONZ) opened with prayer.
- VISITORS** 22 Club members in attendance, 5 visitors (Greg Fair – KG5AHK, Chris Hood – KE5SBP, Frank Lappin – KG5AHJ, Charles Schaffer – KE5NTU, and Scott Weber – no call yet).
- ANNOUNCEMENTS** Welcome to visitors.
- Explanation of 50/50 Drawing, invitation to participate.
 - HARC February 2014 Newsletter handouts.
 - Cowtown Marathon, February 22 – 23, 2014
 - February 22, 2014, Tech Talk – Chris Hood, presentation on PCB Design and Fabrication.
 - March 1, 2014, Tech Talk - Pres. Craig on NBEMS, Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software using Eagle CAD software.
 - March 1, 2014, Irving HamFest.
- TREASURER REPORT** Everett Bailey (KE5ZHU) presented the Treasurer's Report, accepted as read.
- MINUTES** The January, 2014, Minutes accepted as published in the February 2014 Newsletter.
- SUNSHINE COMMITTEE** President Craig (N5LNX) advised of the need for someone to be in charge of the Sunshine Committee. All members doing well at present, no new concerns or information announced.

REPEATERS

Bub Mueller (K5BUB) not present, Everett described the city's removal of the old 2 meter repeater shack, the positioning of the new shack and the work done by Bub, Steve, and Everett. The Club's radio equipment and battery are installed and working well. Work remaining: installing two new air conditioners, insulation, and adding more ceiling joists and interior plywood. Club members will then paint the building's exterior with city-provided three gallons of "Hurst Water Tower blue" paint.

Club Repeater 147.100 Mhz Interference - Noel Lee (KF5SLK) reported on another repeater bleeding over on the HARC repeater's frequency. Noel was able to contact the Trustee of the 147.200 Mhz interfering repeater. That Trustee promised to promptly check out and fix the problem, even taking that repeater off air until the problem is resolved.

TESTING

Frank Schnell (W5EFZ) with W5YI VE's tested two now new Technician licensees on February 6, 2014. Mike Haefner (N5YM) led the ARRL VE's in testing in the afternoon of the second Technician Class day, 10 new Technicians, 2 new Generals, and one upgrade to General.

Congratulations to all new licensees, also to Mike Haefner and Craig Leikis for instructing the class.

RACES

Hurst RACES Volunteer Coordinator Gary Moncrief (KA5KPC) thanked all Hurst RACES members that renewed their National Weather Service SKYWARN Training last month.

Progress on NETC Ham Radio clubs preparations to quickly assist Northeast Tarrant police or fire agencies that lose their emergency communications: Noel reported on the announcement at the joint clubs' meeting Saturday that Chief Palla and Frank Knox will work with Tarrant RACES to produce a RACES/ Tarrant Cities Memorandum of Understanding to then be presented to Tarrant County's cities.

Gary will brief the Outdoor Warning Siren monitoring volunteers on things Chief Palla recently requested of HARC RACES operators should a major event occur.

Gary described a need for RACES members to be more attentive to incoming radio traffic and also prevent our conversations from getting confused with an operator's transmitted audio to others. **In the Radio Room the radios have priority.** Everyone in the radio room needs to be able to hear who was calling and what they're saying. Likewise we all need to be more alert for when someone in the Radio Room is transmitting so we project a good and professional- sounding presence.

Gary to attend the Tarrant RACES County-Wide Leadership March 2014 Meeting instead of HARC's March Monthly Meeting scheduled on the same night. Pres. Craig has appointed Denise Lucas (KF5WKR) to handle the Club Secretary meeting duties.

T-SHIRTS

Everett (KE5ZHU) reports he has five Club T-Shirts that have been ordered but not picked up. He has four others available for purchase, 2 Large, \$24 each, and 2 Extra-Large, \$27 each. Everett explained the supplier's error on Club T-Shirts with no pockets, they've reordered the correct ones with pockets. We have NO POCKET Club T-Shirts available for purchase, 4 Large or 3 Extra-Large for \$15 each. Those wishing quantities or sizes other than what we presently have, let Everett know as we have to order a minimum of 10 total each order we place.

CERT

Ryan Ingoglia (K5NRP) reported on the combined Hurst and Bedford Cert training with 26 people in the first class this past Thursday night. A goal for after training completion is for Hurst CERT to establish an MOU with Euless and Bedford.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments provided by Tonya Leikis (K5TGL). Roger Beatty (K5VFR) brought soft drinks.

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Pres. Craig told of progress on the Board-initiated inventory of Club and RACES equipment and property currently stored at the old fire station #2 at Precinct Line Road and Redbud, members' homes, the EOC Radio Room and storeroom. Several Board members inventoried items at the old fire station Saturday afternoon. All are being marked "keep" or "dispose" with Club members having first option on the latter or the Club will sell anything left over at a Ham gathering. This is an ongoing project.

HAMNET MESH

Pres. Craig described MESH, a broadband hamnet mesh network comprised of WiFi, and 2.4 Ghz ham band frequencies. A self-healing, automatically-building routing tables TCP/IP network that can send video, large attachments, voice, etc. Our plan is to have a node at our EOC Radio Room that will link up with the other Northeast Tarrant County EOC's. With their normal 70 milliwatts range is ½ mile with an omni antenna, 10 miles or more line of sight with a directional antenna. Noel has purchased, donated to the Club 10 routers. Jason Johnston (KC5HWB) estimates total cost to purchase parts and set up each node at \$100 to \$150. Additional information on the technology can be found at <http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>.

HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOON LAUNCH Pres. Craig announced several organizations are working together for a balloon launch with a payload of experiments. This is not a HARC project, anyone interested is invited to participate. Amateur Radio Operators volunteering to help with APRS for recovery are invited to a meeting this Thursday evening, February 20, 2014, at the Lockheed-Martin Ranch. Chris Hood explained the two launches, the first will be in about 3-1/2 weeks, a 5,000' altitude test launch and recovery. The second launch will be in April during a Near Space Challenge and should reach 60,000' to 70,000' altitude. A recovery team will be needed.

EXTRA LICENSE CLASS Seven members present expressed an interest in beginning regular meetings to cover different Extra Class topics, TBA.

MORSE CODE CLASS Four members expressed an interest in a Morse Code class. Nick Milano (KA5TVI) will help instruct. TBA.

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY 2014 Treasurer Everett has secured, paid for a reservation with the city for HARC's use of Brookside Center on the third Monday in December, 2014, from 6 p.m. To 11 p.m. The city will refund most of the amount to the Club that month.

FIELD DAY 2014 June 28, 29, 2014. Pres. Craig has led the Club's planning and participation the past two years, called for a volunteer to head up this year's HARC Field Day effort. Noel volunteered, Denise and other members promised Noel their help and assistance. One recommendation is to have a pancake breakfast for the Saturday morning, June 28, 2014, Field Day equipment setup. Discussion on searching out, deciding on the best site for Field Day operations this year.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND LOCAL REPEATERS PLACARD Roger Beatty offered to create vehicle sun visor placards with a current listing of HARC members, call signs, and area repeaters. Should be a real help for newer licensees. Roger also complimented the present Club leadership for a just-right mix of activities and interests that has grown the Club.

FRIDAY NIGHT NETS A general discussion open net starts at 8 pm on Friday nights on HARC's 147.100 Mhz repeater. Joe Waldrop (WB5TDJ) also recommends a Tech Net originating from Australia on the Fort Worth 443.45 Mhz repeater.

TECH TALK Chris Hood will present February's Tech Talk this Saturday morning, February 22, 2014, 9 a.m., on Fabrication. The Tech Talk for March will be March 1, 2014, Pres. Craig will present an informative program on NBEMS, Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software.

50/50 Treasurer Everett had Roger Beatty draw the winning ticket. Denise Lucas won the 50/50 drawing.

ADJOURNMENT Pres. Craig adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m..