



In-State on 20 Meters

I've been operating some State QSO Parties recently. During the South Carolina event, I made contact with W9DC on Hilton Head Island who was running the frequency. After my contact, I heard AA4R repeatedly calling in response to W9DC's QRZ but W9DC clearly couldn't hear him. On my end, both stations had strong 59 signals. AA4R was operating in Laurens County SC so he was good for me as a multiplier, and it would be cool to have a QSL card from him on the wall. However, with W9DC running a pileup on the frequency, all I could do was listen to AA4R trying unsuccessfully to call W9DC.

There must be an unwritten QSO Party rule prohibiting in-state contacts on 20m. I had the same problem during the Texas QSO Party last year. I ran 20m all afternoon making contacts throughout the US but couldn't hear anyone in Texas. I don't know if anyone in Texas heard me but if they did, I couldn't hear them. My signal and/or theirs was probably bouncing right over Texas headed for other states. I needed to have a lousier 20m antenna more suitable for making in-state contacts. We joked about needing to lower the antenna to 3 feet or string the wire between some rocks on the ground.

The Oklahoma QSO Party is coming up on March 12. I think I'm going to use some cinder blocks for the supports on my new rotatable 20m dipole.

—Ron Reeves, NN5R



Spring Forward

March 13, 2:00 AM becomes 3:00 AM CDT

Next Regular Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2022, 7:00 PM CT

“Design Your Ideal Shack” — Dave Ellison, W7UUU, will us show how he rebuilt his shack after a devastating fire destroyed everything. The meeting will be virtual using Zoom. As a subscriber to this *Newsletter*, you will receive your Zoom invitation by email.

New Members

MARS Welcomes:

Jerry Pirkle KI5TBN

David Fedorko KF5PFC

Steve Gibbs AE5IC

Contesting with Tom

For us here in North Texas, March brings a hint of spring in the air. The weekend of March 12/13 brings back Daylight Saving Time so we will have more daylight in the evenings to play with. The month of March has a nice selection of CW, Digital and Phone contests going on including the ARRL International DX Phone Contest. There are also four state QSO parties in March: Oklahoma, Idaho, Wisconsin, and Virginia. So, dust off your paddles, check your digital connection between your radio and your computer, and make sure you've got some compression turned on for your microphone. Let's get contesting and remember this is just a partial list. For a full list of contests organized into categories, please see <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>.

Selected March Contests

MAR 03	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW DIG PH	https://www.nrrlcontest.no/
MAR 04	K1USN Slow Speed Test	CW	http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html
MAR 05	ARRL International DX SSB Contest	PH	https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
MAR 07	RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship	DIG	https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/
MAR 12	South America 10-Meter Contest	CW PH	http://sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules/
MAR 12	Oklahoma QSO	CW PH	http://www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm

	Party		
MAR 12	Idaho QSO Party	CW PH	http://www.pocatelloarc.org/idahoqsoparty/
MAR 12	North American RTTY Sprint	DIG	https://ncjweb.com/north-american-sprint/
MAR 13	Wisconsin QSO Party	PH	https://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm
MAR 19	Virginia QSO Party	CW DIG PH	https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2022_VQP/2022_VQP_Main.html
MAR 28	RSGB FT4 Contest	DIG	https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/

—Tom Yenny, K5LOL, K5LOL@ARRL.net

Play Day

Saturday, March 19, 2022 • 10:00 AM ≈ 3:00 PM CT

Carrollton Josey Ranch Lake Library, 1700 Keller Springs Road

We'll be in the **BIG** room up front. This month's theme will be "antennas." We will talk about the upcoming *Texas State Parks on the Air* as well.

—Steve Darrah, KD5YPB@ARRL.net

Amateur Testing

Saturday, March 19, 2022 • 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM CT

Allan Batteiger, WB5QNG, will have *IN-PERSON* testing at the Carrollton Josey Ranch Lake Library, 1700 Keller Springs Road, in the *Conference Room* in the back (right side).

He continues to host *online* test sessions as well. Go to

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/wb5qng> to find a session. Visit <https://wb5qng.org/> for information about how to sign up and prepare for a session. Send Allan an email arb@rtsi.com if you have any questions.

Hams & Eggs

Every Saturday morning at the [Whataburger by the Tollway](#), dedicated radio enthusiasts get together **about 8:00 AM CT** for breakfast and camaraderie. All Hams or Want-to-Be-Hams are invited to drop by.

Net Without An Interesting Name (NeWAIN)

Thursdays* at 7:00 PM CT • KB5A Repeater 145.210/tone 110.9

This is a very informal net that helps us help each other with radio or other issues. Net control operator **Andy Parcel, KE5KOF**, is looking for *Elmers* to help lead the discussions. If you would like to volunteer send Andy an email, ke5kof450@gmail.com. It would be a great way to be of service to the club.

***No nets on the second or third Thursdays.**

Extra Study Group

The Amateur Extra Study Group continues to meet virtually Thursday evenings (except the 2nd Thursday) at 8:00 PM CT. Host **Andy Parcel, KE5KOF**, invites you to work toward your Amateur Extra license with help from others looking to upgrade. If you're interested, send Andy an email with your **name, call sign**, and your **club name** (if applicable) to ke5kof450@gmail.com.

ARES, RACES & SIRENS

Serving Carrollton, Farmers Branch & Addison•
Next ARES Training Net

13 March 2022, 8:00 PM CT • 145.210 Tone 110.9

Next RACES Training Net

20 March 2022, 7:45 PM CT • 145.210 Tone 110.9

Siren Tests in Carrollton and Farmers Branch • First Wednesday of the month at 1300 Hours, CT. Contact **Steve Darrah** KD5YPB@ARRL.net if you wish to volunteer to monitor a siren.

MARS General Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2022

The meeting convened remotely by Zoom. **President David Gilpin, K5GIL**, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM CT. The attendees said the *Pledge of Allegiance*. All introduced themselves. **There were 22 voting members of 26 attendees and a quorum was established.**

George Williams, KG5GXU, moved and **Daryl DeVault, KE5SAB**, seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022, meeting as published in the February Newsletter. The motion passed.

JJ Henry, N5IMS, read the January 2022 financial statement and it was approved.

Allan Batteiger, WB5QNG, reported remote testing continues Tuesdays, and that we will resume in-person testing at the Josey Ranch Lake Library during Play Days on the third Saturday of the month. Testing will be in the Conference Room.

Allan confirmed that the Club's repeaters are working. **Dave Lane, N5GDL**, and **Kevin Grantham, N5KRG**, reported their DMR and 33cm machines are on the air.

Mike Brown, W5MDB, said the Winlink gateway is functioning normally and noted the website is up to date.

Steve Darrah, KD5YPB, said ARES/RACES nets are meeting as scheduled. Kevin Grantham said the Carrollton and Farmers Branch outdoor warning sirens were not tested in February due to weather. Kevin said we need someone to cover the Park West site at 1601 LBJ Freeway.

Steve said Play Day on February 19 will focus on "Portable Power" and be in the Environmental Room at the Josey Ranch Lake Library.

Steve said he's reserved the Nature Center at the Johnson Branch Unit of Ray Roberts Lake for Texas State Parks on the Air, April 9 and 10. It is an indoor venue with room for four inside operators and more outside.

David Gilpin mentioned *NeWAIN* still meets on the first and fourth Thursdays. The Extra Study Group continues Thursdays except on Club meeting night.

Ken Wendel, W5RPS, reported he had a good time during *Winter Field Day* and was able to work a new mode, JS-8.

David Gilpin mentioned election proceedings begin in March and he will appoint a committee to solicit candidates. He said we have committees working on grant proposals. He welcomed new members **Jerry Pirkle, KI5TBN**, and **David Fedorko, KF5PFC**. He said Jim and Barbara Taylor donated \$300 to the Club as a thank you for helping install an antenna for Jim's shortwave listening.

Dale Finley, KB5NFT, gave this evening's program about Linux-based amateur radio applications.

David Gilpin said the March meeting will be virtual with a possible return to a hybrid meeting in April. He reminded the group to support MARS through Amazon, Kroger, and Tom Thumb. David reminded us to pay our dues.

Allan Batteiger moved; J.J. Henry seconded that the meeting adjourn. David Gilpin adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM CT.

—Respectfully submitted, **Mike Brown, W5MDB**, Secretary@KB5A.org

How to benefit MARS at no cost to you!

MARS works with various businesses that have programs that donate to 501(c)(3) organizations based on member's purchases. We are associated with Amazon Smile, Tom Thumb's Good Neighbor Program and Kroger Community Awards. If you're aware of other

businesses that have similar programs, please let us know how to contact them to get us added.

If your employer has a program where they match funds or have other programs that will steer donations to our club, please check with your HR department to see how to have our club added to their program. Please note that the donations will not affect your costs. To learn how to join these programs head over to the MARS website—instructions are on the home page.

—JJ Henry, N5IMS, Treasurer@KB5A.org

Chat Room

Have something to sell, want to ask for tech help, or just want to rag chew? Create a login and post it on our [Forum Page](#). It's free and you don't have to be a member to post.

That's all for now. **73 from all the Hams at MARS!**

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