



Winter Cometh

Random QRM from the President

While the weather outside is “frightful” here are some suggestions to occupy your time while improving your Amateur Radio skills.

One of the best tools in learning how to do things these days is to search YouTube to discover if someone has posted a video about the information you seek. I’ve been very successful in finding plumbing, appliance, and automotive repair videos on YouTube. There are some good Amateur Radio related YouTube channels around. Here is a list of some of my favorites:

- [AmateurLogic.TV](#)
- [Ham Radio Crash Course](#)
- [Ham Radio 2.0](#) (this is Jason, based in Grapevine TX)
- [K8MRD Radio Stuff](#)
- [David Casler Ham Radio Answers](#)
- [Mr Carlson’s Lab](#) (Ham and general electronics repair)

A lot of us have “cut the cord” and have smart TVs or streaming devices. For those of you with a Roku device, you can add the AmateurLogic channel. This is the same content as their YouTube channel, but it’s right there on your Roku, and you can watch it on your big TV.

Another thing to try: Amateur podcasts. Many of us have Amazon Prime subscriptions. If you do, search for the Amazon podcast “Foundations of Amateur Radio”—free with Amazon Prime.

These are just a few fun ways to learn more about Amateur Radio. May you have low noise and great DX!

—73 David Gilpin, K5GIL President@KB5A.org

Next Regular Meeting

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

MARS member **Dale Finley, KB5NFT**, will present “Linux for Ham Radio Operators.” Dale will cover the wide variety of ham applications that run under Linux variants. As a subscriber to this Newsletter, you will receive your Zoom invitation by email.

Medical Reserve Corps Upgrades Comms

Kevin Grantham, N5KRG, is spearheading a project to bring modern portable and mobile communications to the Dallas County Medical Reserve Corps. Go now to learn all the details: <https://www.kb5a.org/>

Contesting with Tom

Did you get a new radio or antenna for Christmas? Have you put your new toy to the test yet? Have you always wanted to try new modes like FT8, RTTY or PSK31? Well, you’re in luck! February has an excellent selection of all kinds of contests including a lot of digital contests. So, unbox that radio, put up that new antenna and/or watch YouTube to learn about that new mode that you’ve always wanted to try out. February is your month to contest! Below are a select few contests for February. For a full list of contests organized into categories, please see <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>.

Selected February Contests:

FEB 02...VHF-UHF FT8 Activity

Contest...DIG.....<https://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en>

FEB 03...NRAU 10 Meter Activity Contest...CW PH DIG...<https://www.nr1contest.no/>

FEB 05...10-10 International Contest.....PH.....<https://www.ten-ten.org/>

FEB 05...EurAsia HF Championship.....CW PH.....<https://eurasia-contest.com/home/>

FEB 05...Mexico RTTY International Contest...DIG.....<https://www.rtty.fmre.mx/index.html>

FEB 05...Minnesota QSO Party.....CW PH DIG...<https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/>

FEB 05...North American Sprint.....CW.....<https://ncjweb.com/>

FEB 12...CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest.....DIG.....<https://www.cqwxrtty.com/rules.htm>

FEB 19...ARRL International DX Contest...CW.....<https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

FEB 19...Russian PSK WW Contest.....DIG.....<https://www.rdrclub.ru/russian-ww-psk-contest>

FEB 26...South Carolina QSO Party.....CW PH DIG...<http://scqso.com/>

FEB 26...North American QSO Party.....RTTY DIG...<https://ncjweb.com/>

—Tom Yenny, K5LOL, K5LOL@ARRL.net

Play Day

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

Carrollton Josey Ranch Lake Library, 1700 Keller Springs Road

We will be in the *Environmental Room* in the back (left side). Bring your portable power

and other gear and we'll talk about batteries. Looking forward to seeing you there!

—Steve Darrah, KD5YPB@ARRL.net

Amateur Testing

Saturday, February 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 February 2022, 8:00 PM CT • 145.210 Tone 110.9

Next RACES Training Net

20 February 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.

MARS General Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022

The meeting was conducted remotely by Zoom. **President David Gilpin, K5GIL**, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM CT. The attendees said the *Pledge of Allegiance*. There were 20 voting members of 23 attendees and a quorum was established. All introduced themselves.

David Gilpin introduced Mike Brown as interim Secretary.

Mauricio Mazuera, W4FPV, moved and **Daryl DeVault, KE5SAB**, seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2021 meeting as published in the January Newsletter. The motion passed.

JJ Henry read the December 2021 financial statement and it was approved by those attending.

Allan Batteiger, WB5QNG, reported remote testing continues Tuesdays, and that we will resume in-person testing at the Library during Play Days on the third Saturday of the month. Testing will be conducted in the Conference Room. He noted that a record number (35,000) of new amateur licenses have been issued for the second year in a row. Allan said remote testing has tapped a new market by overcoming the resistance to driving long distances to sit for a test.

Allan confirmed that the Club's repeaters are working. Mike Brown reported that he and **Kevin Grantham, N5KRG**, replaced the failed batteries on the three UPS backup power supplies at the hospital.

Mike said the Winlink gateway is functioning normally and noted the website is up to date. **Steve Darrah, KD5YPB**, said Play Day on January 15 will be given over to a remote SKYWARN basic training session. Steve mentioned ARES/RACES nets are meeting as scheduled.

David Gilpin said the joint repeater project with the Plano Amateur Radio Klub is ongoing. Will try to get an update in February.

David said the internet link with Jerry Mabray's house is working well. David said NeWAIN still meets on the first and fourth Thursdays. The Extra Study Group continues Thursdays except on Club meeting night. He mentioned **Andy Parcel, KE5KOF**, earned his Amateur Extra.

This evening's program was a "show 'n' tell" of what folks got for Christmas and their ham plans for the new year.

David Gilpin mentioned the successful antenna party for SWL Jim Taylor. David suggested we stay with virtual meetings for February, and consider returning to in-person in March, should the pandemic allow. He reminded the group to support MARS through Amazon, Kroger, and Tom Thumb. David reminded us to pay our dues.

Allan Batteiger moved, Daryl DeVault seconded that the meeting adjourn. David Gilpin adjourned the meeting at 8:10 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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