



---

### Play Day, August 20—

Tom Yenny, K5LOL (left), and Kevin Grantham, N5KRG, try to determine why the Xiegu X6100 lost its magic smoke.

---

### A Magic Dog Runner

I went to HRO recently not for anything in particular—must you *always* have to reason to go to HRO?—and found an interesting book by N3JO titled *Magic Band Antennas*. I don't have a 6-meter rig so I didn't buy the book. But one particular antenna caught my eye: "The 6-meter Dog Runner." So named because the author lives in an HOA and if you don't put the wire up too high, you can explain "That's not an antenna, that's my dog run." A reasonable excuse *if you have a dog*.

It's a 3-wavelength long dipole with a 50.2 MHz center frequency. Use the formula,  $2934/f = \text{length}$  and stick a 4:1 balun at the feed point situated 25% from one end.

After a little reflection (yuck yuck yuck), I realized I had seen this antenna before. It's an off center-fed (OCF) dipole design. But most OCFs put the balun at the 33% point. What's with this antenna? I was unable to find the antenna on the internet to confirm my memory of its design but I did learn that the feed point of an OCF can vary from 20% to 40% to make the antenna resonant on specific ham bands.

It's really just wire in the air. It could be anything from a dummy load to a really good antenna. The only way to tell is to do some research, build one, and try it out for yourself.

—73 Ron Reeves, NN5R

---



### Festival at the Switchyard Special Event, November 5, 2022

This year we will host a special event using the KB5A call sign. The plan is to have 3 HF stations on the air—two SSB and one digital. We'll have FM and Winlink stations on 2 meters as well. And of course, the Kid Code Key will be front and center in the booth. The sign-up sheet will be on the Club website soon. We'll have two-hour opportunities starting with 8:00 AM setup and ending with cleanup about 10 PM. We'll need operators for our stations as well as Elmers for the Kid Code Key. Be sure to attend the **Radio Play Day on September 17** to help work out the details.

Plan on spending time with us as we put the Festival **ON THE AIR**.

Questions? [KD5YPB@ARRL.net](mailto:KD5YPB@ARRL.net)

### MARS Welcomes New Members

**Ben Groves, KF5WYZ.** Ben is a General in Carrollton.

**Jim Taylor, KI5UHN.** Jim is an Amateur Extra in Farmers Branch.

### Contesting with Tom

September signals the end of the summer and the beginning of our fall. There are **eight** state QSO Parties in September (including the Texas QSO Party) plus the ARRL VHF, RTTY and EME Contests.

One special event happening September 10–18 is "Route 66 On The Air." Check out their web page below and get on the air to earn a very special QSL card.

For anyone interested, a small group of us are planning to go to Fort Richardson State Park in Jacksboro on September 17 to work the Texas QSO Party (Jack County). The Park has air-conditioned cabins so if you want to get out and operate from Fort Richardson State Park, please contact me for more details (see below).

For a more complete list of **all** the September contests, please visit: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>.

September 03	Colorado QSO Party	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="https://ppraa.org/coqp">https://ppraa.org/coqp</a>
September 04	Tennessee QSO Party	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="https://tnqp.org/rules/">https://tnqp.org/rules/</a>
September 07	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	DIG	<a href="https://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">https://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
September 10	Ohio Parks On The Air Contest	PH	<a href="http://ospota.org/">http://ospota.org/</a>
September 11	Alabama QSO Party	CW, PH	<a href="http://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp/">http://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp/</a>
September 11	North American Sprint	CW	<a href="http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf">http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</a>
September 12	ARRL VHF Contest	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf">https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf</a>
September 17	ARRL EME Contest	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="https://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">https://www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a>
September 17	Iowa QSO Party	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP">http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP</a>
September 17	Wisconsin Parks On The Air	CW, PH	<a href="https://wipotat.com/">https://wipotat.com/</a>
September 17	New Jersey QSO Party	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/">http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/</a>
September 17	New Hampshire QSO Party	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/">http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/</a>

September 17	Texas QSO Party	CW, PH, DIG	<a href="https://www.txqp.net/">https://www.txqp.net/</a>
September 24	Maine QSO Party	CW, PH	<a href="http://www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html">http://www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html</a>

Happy Contesting & 73, Tom Yenny, K5LOL [K5LOL@ARRL.net](mailto:K5LOL@ARRL.net)

---

## Next Regular Meeting

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 8, 2022, 7:00 PM CT**

[Carrollton Fire Rescue Administration \(Gravley Center\), 1111 W. Belt Line Rd suite #100, \(SW corner of Belt Line Rd and S. Broadway\)](#)

This will be a “hybrid” in-person and remote meeting. As a subscriber to this *Newsletter*, you will receive your Zoom invitation by email.

---

## Play Day

**Saturday, September 17, 2022 • 10:00 AM ≈ 3:00 PM CT**

[Carrollton Josey Ranch Lake Library, 1700 Keller Springs Road](#)

We'll meet in the **Large Room just inside the front door.**

We will make plans for the upcoming *Festival At The Switchyard Special Event* on November 5. **If you plan to attend the Festival, this is an important meeting. Don't miss it!**

—Steve Darrah, [KD5YPB@ARRL.net](mailto:KD5YPB@ARRL.net)

---

## Amateur Testing

**Saturday, September 17, 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).

Allan 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](mailto:arb@rtsi.com) if you have any questions.

---

## Hams & Eggs

**Every Saturday morning** at the [Whataburger at Old Denton and PGBT](#). Hams from all over get together from 7:00 AM to 10-ish or whatever. There's no program, no officers, no door prizes, but there is hot food, hot coffee, cold drinks, and sometimes show and tell. Ya'll come.

---

## ARES®, RACES & SIRENS

Serving Carrollton, Farmers Branch & Addison

Next ARES Training Net

**11 September 2022, 8:00 PM CT • 145.210 Tone 110.9**

Next RACES Training Net

**18 September 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, *weather permitting*.

Contact **Steve Darrah** [KD5YPB@ARRL.net](mailto:KD5YPB@ARRL.net) if you wish to volunteer to monitor a siren.

---

## MARS General Meeting Minutes

**August 11, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

**President David Gilpin, K5GIL**, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM CT at the Carrollton Fire Rescue Administration Building. We had 31 attendees. **14 members attended in person and 10 members attended remotely. A quorum of voting members was established. One visitor attended in person and 6 visitors attended remotely.** The attendees said the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Ron Reeves, NN5R, gave the invocation. All introduced themselves.

## PRESENTATION

David Gilpin introduced **Lewis Thompson, W5IFQ**, who presented “Field Expedient Antennas.”

## MINUTES/SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Steve Darrah, KD5YPB**, moved and **Kevin Grantham, N5KRG**, seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the **July 14, 2022, meeting as published in the August Newsletter. The motion passed.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**J.J. Henry, N5IMS**, read the **July 2022 financial statement and it was approved.** David Gilpin mentioned we have a \$200 insurance premium coming up.

## REPEATERS/WINLINK

David Gilpin reported all operational repeaters are on the air. The Winlink gateway is running normally.

## TESTING

David Gilpin said we will have in-person testing at the Josey Ranch Lake Library during Play Day on August 20.

Testing will be in the Conference Room.

## WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

David Gilpin reported the website is up to date.

## ARES®/RACES/SIRENS

David Gilpin said the August 3 siren test was conducted. Steve Darrah said the ARES net will be held on August 14, and the RACES net is scheduled for August 21. Steve asked for training ideas.

## PLAY DAY

David Gilpin said Play Day will be on August 20 at the Josey Ranch Lake Library in the large room.

## NET WITHOUT AN INTERESTING NAME

David Gilpin mentioned *NeWAIN* continues on Thursdays, except on Club meeting nights. We would like to see more check-ins.

## SURVEY RESULTS

David Gilpin reviewed highlights from the recent survey:

- 19 of 63 responses (a good percentage for this type of survey)
- Continue hybrid meetings
- Need to recruit new members
- Need more on-air activities
- Most popular activities: Field Day, Play Day, Christmas Party

## UPCOMING EVENTS

David Gilpin mentioned:

- Texas QSO Party—Tom Yenny and others will travel to Fort Richardson in Jacksboro to work this event under our club call sign, September 17–18.
- Festival at the Switchyard on November 5—we're planning to operate a special event station during the Festival.
- Christmas Party on December 8—David mentioned the cost will be much higher than previous years. He asked the members for comments. A pot luck dinner was suggested. David will contact the Victoria restaurant for information. We will explore other venues.

## OTHER ITEMS

David Gilpin reminded the group to support MARS through Amazon, Kroger, and Tom Thumb, and reminded us to pay our dues.

## ADJOURN

**Steve Darrah, KD5YPB** moved and **Mauricio Mazuera, W4FPV**, seconded that the meeting adjourn. **David Gilpin adjourned the meeting at 8:46 PM CT.**

—Respectfully submitted, **Mike Brown, W5MDB**, [Secretary@KB5A.org](mailto: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. Please note that the donations will not affect your costs.

To learn how to join these programs head over to the [SUPPORT page](#) on the MARS website.

—**JJ Henry, N5IMS**, [Treasurer@KB5A.org](mailto: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!*

---

*Copyright © 2022 MARS Metrocrest Amateur Radio Society, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

