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### Texas State Parks On The Air

MARS will activate the Johnson Branch Unit at Ray Roberts Lake State Park during Texas State Parks on the Air, April 9 and 10. Texas Parks & Wildlife have allowed us to use the *Nature Center* as our base with room for antennas.

**Please visit the [EVENTS](#) page for updates and to sign up.**

**If you wish to spend the night, you *must* reserve a campsite. Go immediately (right now) to:**

<https://texasstateparks.reserveamerica.com/unifSearch.do?tti=Home>

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### FCC License Fee Starts in April

The FCC license application fee of \$35 goes into effect **April 19, 2022**. **This applies to new, renewal, and vanity call sign applications. The fee does not apply for license upgrades.** If you're thinking about becoming a new ham, pass your test(s) and **get your application in *before* April 18** to save the fee. Please go here for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/ARRL.org/posts/10159132430912408>

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### Next Regular Meeting

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 14, 2022, 7:00 PM CT**

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

**Allan Batteiger, WB5QNG, will explain the new FCC license application fee.**

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

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### New Member

MARS Welcomes:

**Bren Doreck AD5VP**

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### Contesting with Tom

April Showers helps create tall towers... or something like that! The month of April has a HUGE number of contests going on including 8 state QSO parties 3 of which are during the first weekend in April. If you are trying to achieve a "Worked All States," April will get you a tremendous boost toward that goal. As a club, we are also fully engaged to participate in the Texas State Parks On The Air (TSPOTA) Contest. So, tune that antenna, turn up the mic gain and speed up your CW keying. Let's all get down and contest! For a more complete list of *all* the April contests, please visit: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

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### Selected April Contests

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April 2-3	Missouri QSO Party	<a href="https://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party">https://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party</a>
	Mississippi QSO Party	<a href="https://www.arrlmiss.org/ms_qso_party_page.html">https://www.arrlmiss.org/ms_qso_party_page.html</a>
	Louisiana QSO Party	<a href="http://laqp.org/">http://laqp.org/</a>
	Florida State Parks On The Air	<a href="https://flspota.org/">https://flspota.org/</a>
April 5	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	<a href="http://laqp.org/">http://laqp.org/</a>
April 7	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	<a href="https://www.nrau.net/nrau-contests">https://www.nrau.net/nrau-contests</a>
April 9	New Mexico QSO Party	<a href="http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/">http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/</a>
April 9-10	Nebraska QSO Party	<a href="https://nebraskaqsoparty.com/">https://nebraskaqsoparty.com/</a>
	Texas State Parks On The Air	<a href="https://tspota.org">https://tspota.org</a>
	North Dakota QSO Party	<a href="http://www.ndarrlsection.com/2022/2022_ND_QSO_Party_Rules.pdf">http://www.ndarrlsection.com/2022/2022_ND_QSO_Party_Rules.pdf</a>
	Georgia QSO Party	<a href="https://gaqsoparty.com/">https://gaqsoparty.com/</a>
April 16-17	Michigan QSO Party	<a href="https://miqp.org/">https://miqp.org/</a>
April 17	Quebec QSO Party	<a href="https://wp1.quebecqsoparty.org/rules-quebec-qso-party-2022/">https://wp1.quebecqsoparty.org/rules-quebec-qso-party-2022/</a>
April 23	10-10 International Spring Digital	<a href="https://www.ten-ten.org/qso-party-rules-update">https://www.ten-ten.org/qso-party-rules-update</a>
April 27	432MHz Spring Sprint	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2022-information">https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2022-information</a>

—Tom Yenny, K5LOL, [K5LOL@ARRL.net](mailto:K5LOL@ARRL.net)

## Play Day

Saturday, April 16, 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. Bring your projects and have some fun!

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

## Amateur Testing

Saturday, April 16, 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](mailto:arb@rtsi.com) if you have any questions.

## Hams & Eggs

Every Saturday morning at the [Whataburger at Old Denton and PGBT](#), 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](mailto:ke5kof450@gmail.com). It would be a great way to be of service to the club.

\*No nets on the second Thursday

## Extra Study Group

Andy Parcel, **KE5KOF**, has announced the *Extra Study Group* has been discontinued. Many thanks go to Andy with

congratulations to all who upgraded.

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## **ARES, RACES & SIRENS**

Serving Carrollton, Farmers Branch & Addison•

Next ARES Training Net

**10 April 2022, 8:00 PM CT • 145.210 Tone 110.9**

Next RACES Training Net

**17 April 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](mailto:KD5YPB@ARRL.net) if you wish to volunteer to monitor a siren.

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## **MARS General Meeting Minutes**

**March 10, 2022**

The meeting convened remotely by Zoom. **President David Gilpin, K5GIL**, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM CT. The attendees said the *Pledge of Allegiance*. **Ron Reeves, NN5R**, led the invocation. All introduced themselves. **There were 25 attendees and 22 voting members establishing a quorum.**

### **PRESENTATION**

**Gary Rodgers, KI5X**, introduced our guest speaker, **Dave Ellison, W7UUU**, who showed how he rebuilt his shack after a devastating fire.

### **MINUTES**

**Kevin Grantham, N5KRG**, moved and **J.J. Henry, N5IMS**, seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the **February 10, 2022, meeting as published in the March Newsletter**. The motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

### **TESTING**

**Allan Batteiger, WB5QNG**, reported remote testing continues Tuesday evenings, 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. He said some local clubs aren't testing as much as before. David Gilpin offered to reach out to local clubs to encourage them to take advantage of Allan's testing.

### **REPEATERS/WINLINK**

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.

### **WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA**

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

### **ARES@/RACES/SIRENS**

**Steve Darrah, KD5YPB**, said ARES/RACES nets are meeting as scheduled. Siren tests were successful.

### **PLAY DAY**

Steve said Play Day will be on March 19 in the "Large" room at the Josey Ranch Lake Library. The theme will be "Antennas" and asked for folks to bring analyzers.

### **TEXAS STATE PARKS ON THE AIR**

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. There is no charge for the use of the building. It is an indoor venue with room for four inside operators and more outside. He asked that participants sign up through the website. He mentioned someone needs to be in charge of food and logging.

### **NET WITHOUT AN INTERESTING NAME/EXTRA STUDY GROUP**

David Gilpin mentioned *NeWAIN* is back on Thursdays, except the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Extra Study Group also continues on Thursdays except on Club meeting night.

### **ELECTION/NOMINATIONS**

David Gilpin has appointed **Steve Darrah, KD5YPB**, **Andy Parcel, KE5KOF**, and **Ron Reeves, NN5R**, as the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election of officers in June. David mentioned Gary Rodgers would not be

running again for Vice President. Send an email to [nominations@KB5A.org](mailto:nominations@KB5A.org) if you wish to run for office.

### NEW MEMBER

David Gilpin welcomed new member, **Steve Gibbs, AE5IC**.

### EVENTS

David Gilpin mentioned DFW Ham Radio Expo on June 11, and ARRL Field Day, June 25–26.

### MEETINGS/ETC

David Gilpin said plans are to have a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting at the Carrollton Fire Rescue Training Center in April. He reminded the group to support MARS through Amazon, Kroger, and Tom Thumb. David reminded us to pay our dues.

### ADJOURN

**Steve Darrah moved; Gary Rodgers seconded that the meeting adjourn. David Gilpin adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM CT.**

—Respectfully submitted, **Mike Brown, W5MDB**, [Secretary@KB5A.org](mailto:Secretary@KB5A.org)

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### 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 MARS website—instructions are on the home page.

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

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### 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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