



President- Keith Mumaw KI5VNL Vice-President- Sharon McEachern- KK5SM Secretary-Sarah Richardson- KI5PZF

Treasurer- James Hunt- KI5DQ Trustee- Dr.Mike Durbin - K5MJD

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club K5FRC

Volume 1 Issue 1- January 2024

FUN STUFF

JANUARY 2024 K5FRC TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Below I have attached a pdf listing all deposits and expenditures for the 2023 calendar year. The most recent being the club's liability insurance and equipment insurance which were paid on 12-28-23. Please also note a deposit of \$610 since the last newsletter.

This brings the club's checking account balance to \$4005.46 and the club's savings account to \$224.20. Nothing is pending as of 1-12-24.

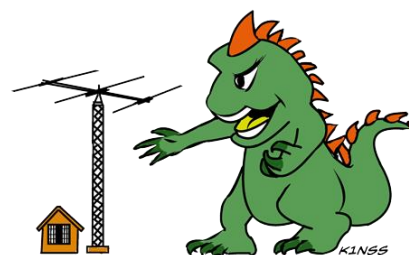
Thank you for allowing me to serve you as club treasurer for the last several years. It has been my honor.

<https://k5frc.org/NEWSLETTER%202024/SUMMARY.pdf>

73,
Sharon
KK5SM

Well, it's that time again! Welcome to 2024!. So, what are your 2024 radio-related resolutions? What radio-related activities are you most looking forward to? What kind of equipment do you want to get on the air?

Drop Mike K5mjd a note for the next newsletter and I will post and see what everyone wants for this year.



K5FRC REPEATERS

**145.470 (100Hz tone; -600Khz offset)
C4FM or Analog; IRLP 3602;
ECHOLINK 143903**

Tuesday Night Net 8:00 PM
442.525 (100HZ TONE; +5.0 Mhz offset)
C4FM or Analog;
443.750 (100Hz tone; +5.0Mhz offset)
C4FM or Analog;

FCARC meets every third Saturday at
9:00 AM at the Bois D'Arc Creek
Cowboy Church

ZOOM sessions are held every Tuesday
at 7:00 PM CST before the net on the
145.470 Mhz repeater. Website:

www.k5frc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/K5FRC/
Mark, KF5KUW is the administrator.
Website: www.k5frc.org

President's Report

RETIRING President's Report

Well, here it is, time to say goodbye as your club President, and welcome in our new President elect, Keith Mumaw KI5VNL. It has been a great two years as your President, and we as a club have grown so much and had a lot of fun times together. We have shown how amateur radio can support our county when their radio system goes down, as well as assisting the National Weather Service with storm spotting and damage reports. Our club has conducted classes for all three license classes, and this past year using Zoom we have been able to teach people as far away as Maine.

And our club has grown. Our membership grew to 68 members this year. Unfortunately, two of our members became a Silent Key, and will be sorely missed. But when you look at the broad spectrum and backgrounds of our members, there is almost every base covered. County Judge, Electrical Engineer, Electronics Engineer, Tower climber, Library worker, Helicopter pilot, School Bus drivers, Teachers, and our very own Dr. Durbin, who seems to be able to do it all (and enjoys teaching others how to...). And look at our license classes – we have 19 Extra Class, 24 General Class, and 22 Technician Class. What a great group of people!

It was unfortunate that I was unable to attend the December meeting and Christmas Party, as I was at home ill. I understood I missed a great time, fantastic fellowship, wonderful and plentiful prizes, and great food.

Now, I get to sit back in the audience at our club meetings and activities. I am so looking forward to the upcoming year, and all it has to offer.

Thank you, and God Bless... I wonder if they will build an Amateur Radio Library and name it after me?

Mark Hetherington
KF5KUW

SECRETARY REPORT

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
Regular Meeting & Christmas Party
15 December 2023

Vice President James Hunt (KI5DQ) called the meeting to order.

Old Business: Keith Mumaw (KI5VNL) reported that the J-Pole antenna project is completed and all antennas are ready to go.

New Business: Judge Newt Cunningham (KI5YDF) reminded us that April 8 will be a Total Eclipse of the sun over our area, and there is the possibility of an influx of visitors to the area. Jeff Jones (K5JSJ) reiterated the influx of visitors, and that Troy Hudson, Emergency Management Coordinator will be looking, and possibly recruiting, volunteers for the event. Paris is looking at 100,000 visitors possible for the eclipse event.

Winter Field Day – with the chili/soup cookoff being held that evening. The Lake Bonham Pavilion is reserved for the event.

Officer Elections – ballots were passed out by Sarah Richardson (KI5PZF) to members with instructions to select between two slates of officers or write-in names. Ballots were collected and counted, with the results for 2024 FCARC officers being:

President – Keith Mumaw (KI5VNL)

Vice President – Sharon McEachern (KK5SM)

Treasurer – James Hunt (KI5DQ)

Secretary – Sarah Richardson (KI5PZF)

Door Prizes were drawn for and given to the winners.

Meeting adjourned –

Good food, good fellowship and good fun for all.

New Year – Same Secretary

Thank you for wanting me to be your FCARC Secretary again. I do appreciate your confidence in me, even knowing I am going to run away to the East Coast (Maine mostly) this coming summer.

What I want to know from you would be what do you want to learn this year? What things would a new ham really need to have help with – practical, hands-on learning applications for grounding, go-boxes, antennas? I have started to ask members who aren't the regular teachers but do things. I have asked Jim Thomas is he would educate us on his octopus antenna construction that he demonstrated at the Coffee Mill Park meeting in October. I happen to think that's pretty darn neat. I have asked Mike Lindsey about some construction things that he has had success with.

I want the club to be highlighted in our hobby, and involvement with our community. Each of us bring something to the table, even as we start out. We have opportunities to take our hobby to youngsters with the Boy Scouts. Duncan Berry and I talked about that at the Sam Rayburn House event last September. I spoke with a scout leader for the older scouts recently about that being a possibility, since my acquaintance is mostly with leaders of the youngest variety of scouting. Mark Gibbs is interested in a club at Sam Rayburn. Young people are our future leaders, and I would like to have them active as hams.

I am proud to be associated with such a diverse group of people as make up FCARC. I promise I will continue to publicize the group, and our activities, with our local news outlets, but maybe I can even get us in the regional or national spotlight with ARRL. At our Christmas gathering, I did mention that I want more than numbers on the roll sheet, but active bodies working the airwaves. Let's be more in 2024 – more involved, more contacts, more sharing of our knowledge.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

12 January 2024
James Hunt - KI5DQ
Treasure and Safety Officer

It has been a wonderful experience as the K5FRC Vice-President past 24 months, Sharon and I exchanged hats. For a club to grow n prosper, we all need to change roles occasionally.

Many are excited on building Go Kits and exploring new challenges within this hobby. The upcoming Winter Field Day, will showcase some of these concepts. With all license classes no longer requiring morse code - this is one of the modes will be using at this event. Along with solar power and other digital modes. Yours truly plans on using a keyer during the event, and hopefully a tuned ear.

I plan on bring more programs to the meeting this year. If someone has a topic / speaker, please share with me. We will all benefit.

This year, will be assisting both Fannin and Grayson Counties with additional TDEM safety roles. Being part of 35+ years of industrial business unit settings, it will be a good asset.

NEW VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I was pondering what to write as my first article as VP, I was reminded of the radio amateur's code. It is appropriate at all times and a good reminder for us as we embark upon this new year.

Thank you for electing me as your 2024 club vice-president. I am honored and will serve you to the best of my ability.

**73,
Sharon
KK5SM**

The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...He/[She] offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...He/[She] keeps his/[her] station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/[Her] operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY...He/[She] operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation, and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC...His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

This was written over 90 years ago and should be applicable to every operator today. If we're operating on the air or working to mentor a new operator, are we living up to this ideal and passing it along to others?

Trustees' report

New weather alert radio was installed on 145.47 repeater.

It is hard to test this so listen up on weather days and Wednesday when they do their weekly testing.

NOW MY USUAL FUN/INFO STUFF

WHAT IS THIS SUNSPOT CYCLE MAKING HF SO MUCH FUN RIGHT NOW?

The solar cycle is a nearly periodic change in the Sun's activity between the time where we can observe the most and least number of sunspots, and generally lasts around 11 years. Sometimes the surface of the Sun is very active with lots of sunspots, while other times it is quieter with only a few or even none. So people say it is a 7 year cycle not 11. Here is a summary of what happens in the 11 year cycle.

The period of rise from minimum phase when sunspots may be absent for several weeks, to maximum phase, when many groups may be present at one time, takes an average of four years. The decrease from maximum back to minimum occurs over the following seven years.

A quick comment ;

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE ON HF AND WORK THE WORLD WITH MINIMAL ANTENNAS AND LOW POWER...

We are now in Solar Cycle 25 with peak sunspot activity expected in 2025!!!

From space.com here is another summary

Solar cycles are repetitive yet difficult to predict. A cycle can be as short as eight years or as long as 14 years and varies dramatically in intensity. The current cycle — solar cycle 25 — began in December 2019, according to a solar cycle 25 [article](#) from NASA. Solar activity is expected to ramp up until the [predicted solar maximum as early as 2024](#).

Heightened solar activity poses a risk to [satellites](#), spacecraft and even spacewalking astronauts due to increased radiation exposure. On [Earth](#), the large geomagnetic storms that solar activity triggers can interfere with high-frequency radio communications and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), [according to NASA](#).