



President-Mark Hetherington - KF5KUW

Vice-President-James Hunt - KI5DQ

Secretary-Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF

Treasurer-Sharon McEachern – KK5SM

Trustee- Dr.Mike Durbin - K5MJD

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club K5FRC

Volume 1 Issue 10 - October 2023

FUN STUFF

OCTOBER 2023 K5FRC TREASURER'S REPORT

Currently, the club has a balance of \$4,472.43 in its checking account and a balance of \$224.14 in its savings account. Since our last club meeting, the club has had zero deposits or expenditures.

I will send out the current roster prior to our next meeting.

Reminder: If you need to renew your ARRL membership, you can do so through the club and the club will receive a commission from ARRL. I will have the forms at our next meeting.

Thank you Sarah, KI5PZF, for renewing your ARRL membership through the club. The club is awaiting its commission from ARRL.

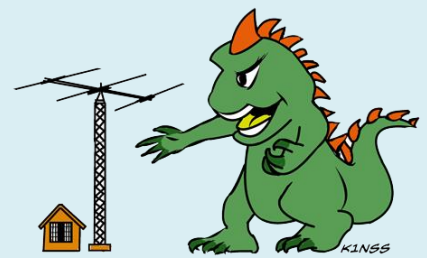
Be on the lookout for an update on the t-shirt order.

73's,
Sharon
KK5SM

Call Signs

What is the deal with that funny combination of letters and numbers? Well, every licensed Amateur Radio operator is given a unique call sign. It consists of three parts, indicating the operator's country of origin and often even a specific region within the country. It looks something like "UA1LO". The suffix of the call sign identifies the license holder. A license is needed due to potential interference between radio equipment and other radio transmissions, so operators must understand it and be familiar with how it works.

Can you guess whose call sign is "UA1LO"? It belonged to Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space!



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

President's Report
October 2023

The weather is finally cooling off some. We are told that it is fall, but the daylight hours are just getting shorter than the nighttime hours. A lot has happened since our last report, and a lot more is to come.

I spent a wonderful two weeks away on my vacation with my son Nicholas, KF5QMZ. I spent a relaxing two days driving out to Las Vegas to pick him and his girlfriend up, as they flew in from Pennsylvania to go camping. My drive out was really enjoyable, until I was roughly 1-1/2 hours away from Las Vegas. Of all things, I popped one of my crowns off after eating lunch, and proceeded to locate a dentist in Las Vegas who could help fix my issue. I was really lucky, and several hours later I had a temporary crown in place, which has lasted.

We drove the three and a half hours north to our mountain wilderness, where we would be camping out for the next week. Our camp was located at the BLM recreation area Cleve Creek campground, and where we decided to pitch our tents was about 7,400 feet above sea level, and in a deep canyon in the Schell Creek mountains. This location is within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, just feet from the High Schell Wilderness. We pitched our tents, and then I proceeded to set up my amateur radio gear I had brought with me.

We had a fantastic time, and the weather was ideal. High temperatures were only in the upper 60's, and at night the temp would cool down into the mid 40's. The stars were unbelievably bright and beautiful, and you could clearly see the Milky Way brightly above. Best of all, it was a new moon, which made the stars even brighter. We had a campfire going almost every evening, a relaxing way to wind down after a day of fishing, hiking, keeping that hammock from being unoccupied, and best of all, playing radio.

I must admit though, nothing ever goes according to plan, which is why it is so important to be prepared. I had the ideal setup, where I had a small table set up within my tent, a camp chair in front of it, and my mattress and sleeping bag behind me when I was operating. I brought a deep cycle marine battery to power everything with, and my inverter generator to recharge the battery. I brought my FT-897D radio, complete with my Signalink audio card, and my laptop, so I could be able to run FT-8 in the wilderness. This grid square is quite rare, as remote as this location is, although Great Basin National Park was a mere 25 miles away across the valley from me.

Then the issues began. My laptop battery failed; it had just been replaced 3 months ago. So much for my computer... So FT-8, as well as controlling my radio from software, electronic logging of contacts, was not going to happen. So I tried plugging in my 800 watt inverter I brought to power my A/C devices with when the generator was not running, and running the laptop directly. After almost an hour of charging the internal battery enough that the laptop would actually boot up, I got my software initially running. I turned on the radio, and to my surprise the inverter produced a noticeable amount of interference. When the laptop finally booted, suddenly the interference sent my noise floor into the red. This was not going to work. I hooked my radio directly up to the battery, without the inverter or laptop connected, and my noise floor was only an S 1-2.

I brought several HF antennas I planned to use, as I try to find the best for my use portable. I had my trusty portable 6M – 80M Alpha Antenna military vertical whip, which I mounted its 14-foot height on

top of 16 feet of aluminum mast, and ran LMR-400 coax to my radio. I had also brought two 40M mobile vertical whip antennas, as well as two 80M mobile whips. My intentions were to make these into a 40M and 80M rotatable dipole. I had my antenna analyzer with me so I could tune these for resonance and efficiency, and I quickly learned that the 40M whips I was able to tune under a 1.5:1 SWR in the phone area of the band, but I could not get the 80M antennas to come anywhere close to tuning, with the lowest SWR being around 5:1. As a backup, I also had my ATAS-120a auto tunable from 40M through 70 cm on my truck I could use.

After a couple days of use, I found that the Alpha Antenna worked better than the 40M rotatable dipole, and it covered all the bands I tried to work from 10M through 80M. This antenna works great, and with my LDG external tuner that I have with my FT-897D, it was a workhorse. Ironically, I compared it to the ATAS-120a, and I was surprised that the truck's antenna transmitted better than Alpha, and they both heard about the same.

I was able to play on my radio every night, but I was not very successful in making contacts like I had expected. I was able to make contact with one of our club members, KI5DQ, one evening, but the band quickly changed and he dropped into the noise floor. I did much better when I was driving, as I was able to talk with K5MJD. One time he tried to interconnect KI5PZF from her VHF repeater connection into HF, but it just didn't quite work for something unplanned or tested beforehand.

But the trip was a huge success, and we had a great time. Nicholas caught his four \$20.25 trout, which he called them since his out of state fishing license costs \$81.00. I just had three fish that took my bait and gave me a fight, only to get off before I could get them onto the bank near me. We listened to the bull elk bugling down our canyon every night just after dusk, but we never saw a single elk the entire trip. We enjoyed being totally unplugged, as none of our cellphones worked until we got to the other side of the mountains where the city of Ely, NV resides. And we decided that this was going to be an annual event for us, our father and son week together camping in the wilderness.

After dropping Nicholas and his girlfriend back off in Las Vegas, I hit the road for some park viewing on my way home. I decided to take a longer way home, so I turned northeast and boy were the sights spectacular. I first went to Zion National Park, and from there to Red Canyon State Park, and finally to Bryce Canyon National Park just before sunset. The next day I traveled to the childhood home of Butch Cassidy, then across the state to Goblin Valley State Park, with my goal to make Arches National Park later that afternoon. I learned as I reached the turn to get into Arches National Park that the park service was trialing a reservation only entry into Arches NP for the entire year. You had to make reservations online, and there was only a limited number of passes per hour available. This was to seriously limit the number of visitors, as the previous crowds were literally tearing up the park. I got very lucky, and was able to get a pass for the next morning. So I spent a night in Moab, Utah, which is a very interesting place to visit. The next morning, I waited in line for almost an hour before I made it to the entrance, and the ranger verified my reservation and let me into the park. After several hours of driving and walking around in the park, I left and drove to Mesa Verde National Park. I had planned to camp out here for the night, and explore some of the neat cliff dwellings that were built many, many years ago. But fate got its way, and all their campsites were completely booked up. And, so were all the commercial ones nearby.

So, I made the decision to surprise my wife by coming home earlier than expected, and started driving homeward. I spent the night in Santa Fe, NM, and the following day I drove a slightly different route than I always took through Tucumcari and Amarillo, instead I drove further south and into Lubbock, on through Abilene, and home through DFW. It was a little after midnight when I arrived back home, and although she was surprised, she had become worried earlier when in checking my APRS signal, it

hadn't moved from Santa Fe... My radio was having issues, and I learned the hard way that you can't just switch the bodies between an FTM-400d and an FTM-400xd radio without changing their control heads, as they don't play good with the wrong control head.

Lessons learned.

After my trip, I got back in time for the Autumn In Bonham Bike Ride event. Our club handled all the radio communications for the event. We had a great time, and really appreciated the additional help from our friends in the Red River Valley Amateur Radio Club from Lamar County. With their support, we were able to put radios at all the rest stop locations, as well as having a radio in every SAG (Support And Gear) vehicle. Watch for a separate story on this event, including pictures, coming soon.

For our October club meeting, we will once again have our meeting at the Lake Coffee Mill campground, located in the Caddo National Grasslands, in the northeast part of our county. We will have a special event afterwards, and our Go Kits are what is to be special... See you there!

SECRETARY REPORT

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2023

Vice President James Hunt (KI5DQ) called the meeting to order at 0902 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jessie Brown (KF5SOX) led the invocation. A "Round Robin" introduction followed. We had guests Jim Deerman and J. R. Hawley.

Minutes from August were approved on motion from Dr. Mike Durbin (K5MJD), second by Duncan Berry (KG5NDO), motion passed.

Treasurers Report given, motion from Sarah Richardson (KI5PZF), second from Keith Mumaw (KI5VNL), motion passed.

Trustee Report from Dr. Mike on the repeaters. Problem appears to be from county equipment. He will be doing a follow-up with them.

Old business:

Bike Rally. Mr. Deerman is the chair for the event. He reports volunteers are still needed in Ravenna, Savoy, and the big slide. Currently, there are 61 riders signed up. The event was a big event in the past and is working on building it back up. Dr. Mike wants to do a 'dry run' prior to the event. Discussion has it to be 23 September. Sarah brought up that it is the date of the Sam Rayburn Heritage Event that the club is supposed to be at. It was determined that Duncan would work the Heritage program to represent the club, as he has already tested his equipment at the rest stop #3 Bois d'Arc Trailhead.

Sam Rayburn Heritage Days. The club had been invited to participate in this and agreed to be there. Sarah Richardson had planned on being there but swapped with Duncan Berry. Duncan will have the club banners and material.

New Business:

Mike Warren (KA5REJ) passed away Monday, with his services scheduled to be Sunday, 17 September 2023 at the First Methodist Church 801 Star St. Bonham TX.

Members were asked to wear club shirts if attending to represent our support of the family.

APRS information and training to be available after the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Keith Mumaw (KI5VNL) and seconded by Deedee Yakel (KI5VFN). Motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Sarah Richardson – KI5PZF

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Fall Time safety tips and awareness.

2023 SKYWARN Schedule

The National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN Program is now complete.

<https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>

Your NWS certificates are good for 2 years.

The K5FRC 145.470- and 442.525+ repeaters have SKYWARN nets during inclement weather events. They have direct link to the NWS.

Autumn In Bonham

Autumn In Bonham bike rally 07October2023 was a showcase of sportsmanship and fellowship of all participants. The radio and APRS communications were provided by the Bonham Radio Club – K5FRC and Red River Radio Club – WB5RDD. How many riders? 200+.

A special Thank You for the Bonham Fire Department dispatch of a truck with flashing light-bar. It made a difference on slowing down traffic on Highway 78 @ FM1396.

Fire Prevention Week

O'Learys cow, 08 October 1871. Does anyone recall / know of O'Learys cow?

Some history – the Chicago Fire of 1871, allegedly caused by Catherin O'Leary cow kicked over a lantern, that started the blaze. Lacking fire prevention, much of Chicago structures were destroyed.

Fire prevention week, annually begins 08October.

Who is responsible? We all are!

- Working smoke alarms – replace the battery annually. These alarms can alert you to a fire, in time for you to escape, even if you are asleep.
- Plan your escape from a fire.
- Cook carefully, never leave your kitchen while cooking.
 - Kitchen fires are the leading cause of home fires.
- Give space heaters space, and inspect them.
- Portable air-conditioner safety.
- Matches and Lighters are tools, not toys.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and / or blanket available at all times.
- lithium battery charging, should be carefully monitored.
 - Lithium batteries in toys, bikes, scooters – should always be re-charged outdoors.
- Stop, Drop, and Roll.

Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

The five E's of fire safety are education, enforcement, emergency responses, engineering and economics

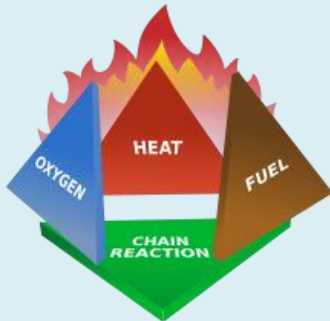
The four main principles are:

- Prevention
- Detection and Communication
- Occupant Protection
- Containment and Extinguishment

The fire triangle is:

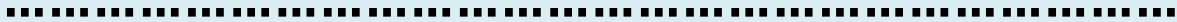
- Oxygen
- Heat
- Fuel

A fourth element – Chemical Reaction, which is a tetrahedron.



By removing any of these four things away, the fire will be extinguished.

Thanks n 73,
 James
 KI5DQ



Trustees' report

New controller installed on 145.47 repeater and that controller moved to the 443.750 repeater.
 The repeater was then repaired and updated making it fully operational again. Training on how the controllers are programmed, and all the features, are in the planning stages. I will be doing the training using zoom sessions. More info to follow as my time allows.

NOW MY USUAL FUN STUFF
FAMOUS PEOPLE YOU DIDN'T KNOW WERE HAMS!!

1. Yuri Gagarin (UA1LO)

Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel into space in 1961. This historic flight brought him immediate worldwide recognition. However, only few people know that Russian cosmonaut was also a ham radio operator. Most of the members of today's astronaut corps are licensed [amateur radio operators](#).

2. Les Hamilton (GM3ITN)

Les Hamilton was a Scottish [ham radio operator](#) who first alerted the British government that the Falkland Islands had been invaded by Argentina. During the occupation he was the only person in Britain to be in regular radio contact with the islanders.

3. John Sculley (K2HEP)

John Sculley, the former president of PepsiCo (1977–1983), became the CEO of Apple Inc. in 1983 and he is also a licensed radio amateur. The marketing genius remained on the position for ten years and even saw the great Steve Jobs resign from his position after the fight between the two of them.

4. Qaboos bin Said al Said (A41AA)

Qaboos bin Said al Said is the Sultan of Oman. And not just that. The country's leader is a [radio amateur](#) as well! Qaboos bin Said al Said became the Sultan of the country of Oman in 1970 and has remained on the position to this day.

5. Juan Carlos (EA0JC)

From one country leader to another. Well almost. Juan Carlos reigned as the King of Spain from 1975 to 2014. His amateur radio callsign is EA0JC.

6. Marlon Brando (FO5GJ)

Last Tango in Paris, The Godfather, Julius Caesar... Who hasn't heard of these cult movies? They all have one thing in common. It's Marlon Brando, one of the best actors in history. And there's more. Marlon Brando was a licensed radio amateur, with the callsign FO5GJ.

THERE ARE MANY MORE!!!!