



THE REPEATER

*Welcome to the monthly
Newsletter publication of the
Fannin County Amateur Radio Club*



K5FRC Repeaters

(100HZ tone on output of all repeaters)

145.470 (No tone) IRLP 3602 ECHOLINK 143902

145.130 (No tone)

443.750 (No tone) IRLP 7901 ECHOLINK 554534

Digital SSTV 446.125

(10 MINUTE BEACON)

David Keene W5DBK, editor-in-training

Email comments to W5DBK.dave@gmail.com

September 2011 Volume 2 No. 9

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club

Minutes for August 20, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Fannin County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Mike Durbin K5MJD leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Mike welcomed the visitors and had the visitors and members introduce themselves. There were three visitors and twenty eligible voting members present.

Mike asked for a motion to accept the minutes as they had been posted on the web site. David Reeder WAØURJ made the motion, Doug Mentzer seconded. Motion passed.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mike requested that Kathy Brewer KE5SLG give an oral summary of the Treasurer's report as it had been posted on the web. David Reeder made the motion to accept the report as posted. Roger Ashcraft KE5CCJ seconded. The motion passed.

Trustee's Repeater Report: Mike Durbin said the antenna at the North Tower has a 45⁰ bend in the top of it and since fiberglass doesn't bend he suspects maybe lightning has something to do with it, but we have to get it down first to see. What is surprising is that it is functioning at all. He has purchased a replacement antenna which is ready to go up but he is not going to send the club the bill until we see what the insurance will pay on the damage. Climbing the tower is out of the question until the heat subsides some.

While at sea he got bored and was shopping around and found a Kenwood repeater. It is a commercial grade, Kenwood VHF 140-160 repeater, fully synthesized, built in controllers, stand alone 50 watt repeater. That is our 13 machine which is now running 25 watts. That will be billed to the club at a later date. It is brand new right out of the box and needs to be added to the equipment list for the insurance plus the cavities there are new now. The repeaters at the North Tower are running real well now and he was able to hit them from Plano and could hit it with a handy talkie from Sherman and that is with a 3to1 SWR. The new antenna will make it even better.

The strange noises on 450 have been identified as truckers hauling gravel near the tower with a FRS radio. One of them has run amuck. When he keys his tones it squeals and screams through the entire 450 band. Occasionally you can actually hear a voice. Robin helped find that out. We heard the voices the other day and it wasn't ham radio people, these were truckers talking. One thing that can be done is to turn on the squelch tone on and require it on the 450 input side which would stop that. All of our repeaters do have a 100 Hz outbound tone. Turn your tone squelch on with a 100Hz tone and you will only hear the repeater.

The new Kenwood repeater is a super stand alone repeater and does not require our controller but it is connected to it. If the controller ever goes down just punch one button to switch its own internal repeater and it will work just fine. In fact, I no longer have to go out there because it now computer controlled. It also passed all the digital modes as well as it does the analogue. It knows the difference and will switch automatically. It is still in construction mode though it is fully operational. There are some alarms you need to know about. If a weather alert goes off the same radio out there will key up the repeaters, IRLP, and Echo Link and send the audio out for ninety seconds to give you that alert then shut itself down. When the wire gets connected if there is a tower light failure you will hear; "Tower light fault". If there is a generator failure you will hear; "Generator fault". These faults will clear themselves when the fault goes away. Since there is a light out you will hear this alert every night when the lights come on and again in the morning when the light go out. It will eventually be set up to announce it over and over until someone does something about it. It isn't set to repeat so it doesn't drive everyone nuts. When you hear these alarms call Darrell Brewer or me to report it. If something is going on out at the tower we need to know about it.

Some user functions are:

Send these tones on either machine

AB01 – Is standard mode which links VHF and IRLP/Echo Link on 13, 450 stand alone

AB02 – LINKS UHF AND IRLP/ECHOLINK and VHF stand alone

AB03 –VHF/UHF/IRLP/ECHOLINK ALL LINKED TOGETHER someone comes in on IRLP it comes out on both repeaters. In on one repeater you go out on both repeaters. The way to tell the guy you are talking to is on the other repeater is you will hear an extra little beep, beep, beep. He is not talking to you on the same repeater you are talking on. You cannot tell an audio difference.

AB04 –isolates everything. Each repeater is stand alone with no IRLP or ECHOLINK active.

There are ten AB functions that will be giving the rest later but most require a second code that will only be given to control operators.

It is all computer controlled .David Keene donated a laptop and I can remotely get into the laptop do anything I could do sitting in front of it. Right now the repeater will be left in the AB03 mode until everyone gets used to it. When you hit the codes it will tell you exactly what mode you are in.

The Bike Rally: The President asked for a volunteer (champion) to be the contact person to keep a list of the Bike Rally assignments and who is assigned to that job. Many want the same as last year.

Doug Mentzer K7DAM volunteered. The routes are identical and rest stops are same as last year and will be manned by the same organizations. Doug will be posting the list on the Fanninham's Yahoo Group.

The dinner for all the volunteers that work the rally is going to be 7:00 PM, August 30, 2011, at the Multipurpose Complex. The actual rally is September 24. There is not going to be a chili or barbeque cook off this year but there will be other things going on. We will be setting up on Friday night and again at 6:00 Saturday morning.

We are not going to try to sell the picture DVDs this year but if anyone asked for them Mike said he would put it together for them. The Photo club will not be working with us. The Hams at the different locations can take pictures and we will be doing Easy Pal as usual. We have the DVD flyer/order forms left from last year that can be used to take any requested orders.

Mike invited today's visitors to come work with us for the rally. In many areas of Fannin County there is no cell phone coverage so the Ham radio is the main source of communications. Danny Loyd KE5WDI said that he had assisted the Paris club last year for their Bike Rally and had been told that they might like to work our Rally this year so he had sent them an announcement but has not heard back.

The meeting place: Jody Lindsey KE5GIB volunteered to write a letter to Mike Trout to request the use of Harper Hall for our meetings each month. This now has to be done on a monthly basis. David Reeder and Roger Ashcraft suggested the Presbyterian Church fellowship hall for a meeting place. The options will be discussed at the next meeting. The advantage of staying at the VA is the close proximity to the radio room and equipment.

The Christmas Party: David Reeder volunteered to coordinate the Christmas Party again this year. He said if there were no objections we would have it back at Shumardi's. David will coordinate with the Chamber so there is not a conflict with the Christmas Parade and pick a Friday night early in the month. If you have anything to donate we will have a silent auction again.

Bob Tassan KE5ZKU announced that since Carly Tassan KE5ZKV, club treasurer, is out of town again she had expressed to him that she prefers that the club find a replacement treasurer, and with their travel schedule it is likely they will not make but one more meeting for the rest of the year. If the club wants a formal letter of resignation she would be sending it.

David Reeder made the motion that Kathy Brewer, secretary, be custodian of the financial records and keep records until a replacement could be nominated and voted on with Jody Lindsey, past treasurer, assisting her. Mike Lindsey

seconded and the motion passed. Bill Purcell was suggested as a possible nominee and Kathy agreed to contact him to see if he would consider accepting the position.

Danny Loyd announced his appointment as District 10 Emergency Coordinator by the ARRL section leader. He said he may be asking for a lot of help in his new position. David Reeder is the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Fannin County.

The Bylaws: Since the "Constitution" had been published on the web site instead of reading the entire document the members brought up their specific questions with Kathy Brewer explaining the reasoning and wording for the additions that had been made.

David Reeder and Doug Mentzer expressed concern for a quorum for the meetings being set at one quarter, twenty five percent of the eligible voting member ship. After much discussion Mike Lindsey made motion that the quorum of twenty five percent remain in the document as written. Danny Loyd seconded. Motion passed.

Mike Durbin explained the reasons for requiring the Trustee to be an Extra class license. The Trustee is the one responsible and holds the class for the club license.

David Keene made the motion that we eliminate the word "constitution" and just call it the "Bylaws", one word. Jody Lindsey seconded. Motion passed.

Wade Graves KF5AUD, visitor today, shared that in trying to get their clubs ARRL affiliation it was pointed out them that a registered trade mark symbol had to be added after use of the names ARRL, RACES, ARES. He just thought we might want to add this before submitting it to the IRS.

Jeff Cotner questioned the technical committee listed under the duties of the Trustee. Since we had voted to establish the same type of committee last month not knowing that this was already in the existing Constitution should the two be committees be separated out. Last month Mark Hetherington was appointed to be the chairman. It was decided that the option for the Trustee to serve as chairperson of this committee or appoint a chairperson be worded into the "Bylaws".

Mike then asked those interesting in serving on such a committee meet with him after the meeting adjourned.

David Reeder commended Kathy Brewer on the job she did in writing the Fannin County Amateur Radio Club Bylaws and made the motion that they be accepted. Mark Hetherington amended the motion to include the changes made here today. Mark then seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kathy Brewer said that she will get the changes made then send it by individual email, post it on Fanninhams and Mike will be posting it on the club website, k5frc.org.

David Keene W5DBK said he will be getting the nominating committee together before the next meeting so be thinking about that.

David Reeder made the motion to adjourn. Darrell Brewer seconded. Motion passed.

Kathy Brewer KE5SLG

Secretary



Fannin Count Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer's Report

September , 2011

Checking - American Bank of Texas ----Account	1001100000	20-Aug-11	- Beginning Balance	\$1,306.09
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Member Dues

Date	Name	Sgls/Fam	Cash	Check	Amount
16-Jul-11	Doug Mentzer	Sgls	\$24.00		\$24.00
16-Jul-11	James A. Patterson	Sgls	\$24.00		\$24.00
9-Sep-11	Freddie Wright	Sgls	\$24.00		\$24.00
9-Sep-11	Victor Wright	Sgls	\$24.00		\$24.00
Dues Total			\$96.00	\$0.00	\$96.00

Income - Cash

Date	From	Notes	Amount
Cash Total			\$0.00

Income - Checks

Date	From	Notes	Amount
	Closed PayPal Account	Seed money to open the account	\$100.00
	Marsh Ins. Refund	Refund after updated equipment list sent	\$30.98
	Bill Purcell	Field Day Donation	\$250.00
Checks Total			\$380.98

Expenses

Date	Name	Check #	Notes	Amount
23-Aug-11	Jeff Cotner	206		\$42.05
23-Aug-11	David Keene	205		\$400.00
Cash Total				\$442.05

Savings

Date	Activity	Notes	Amount
1-Aug-11	Beginning Balance		\$1,204.43
Savings Total			\$1,204.43

SUMMARY

Date	Activity	Amount
20-Aug-11	Checking	\$1,341.02
31-Aug-11	Savings	\$1,204.43
Total Funds		\$2,545.45

Kathy Brewer, Secretary/acting Treasurer

Mike Durbin, President

Autumn in Bonham 2011

The 2011 Autumn in Bonham bike rally will be held on Saturday, September 24, Starting at the Multipurpose Complex East of Bonham. Doug Mentzer K7DAM has about 99% of the radio club "communication experts" assigned to their stations. All club members that are helping in any capacity will receive a "Event Staff" tee shirt, courtesy of the Bonham Chamber of Commerce. If you attended the volunteer appreciation meeting/meal at the Complex and filled out a "volunteer" questionnaire with your shirt size, I will bring your shirt to the club meeting on Saturday, September 17. If you can not make the meeting, you may go by the chamber office on the North side of the square and pick up your shirt.

Dave
W5DBK

Tools of the trade

Most every radio amateur if they pursue the "hardware" side of the hobby will need to know how to solder. Soldering, like any other skill, improves with practice but it is easy to learn if just a couple of rules are kept in mind: 1) cleanliness is critical and 2); heat the object to be soldered, not the solder. Copper, tin, and silver solders the easiest although steel can also be soldered. Fortunately most electronic soldering is done with the "easy" materials. All electronic soldering is done with rosin core solder, never acid core, and the solder is easier to work with if it is a small diameter, such as 0.032 in. The most common solder composition is near the "eutectic" mixture of 63% tin and 37% lead which gives the lowest melting point of about 370 deg. F although lead free solder with a slightly higher melting point is used more and more.

A soldering "gun" or "iron" is used to bring the work up to temperature. A soldering gun is usually used to solder fairly large items such as coax connectors and wire (up to about 6 or 8 gauge). The gun should be large enough to heat the object to be soldered quickly as many objects such as coax or coax connectors can be damaged if soldering takes too long. A propane torch can be used for larger wire. Smaller wire and printed circuit work is usually done with a soldering iron, also called a soldering pencil. Special tips are available for soldering irons to suit most common tasks. For circuit board work it is best to use a temperature controlled iron because excessive heat can damage electronic components and cause copper traces to lift from the circuit board.

The actual process of soldering is straightforward. Apply the gun/iron tip to the object to be soldered and then press the wire solder to the tip/object junction. Hold the gun/iron to the object until the solder starts to melt and remove the solder when a proper amount of solder has flowed into the joint. Keep the gun/iron on the object until the solder achieves a fluid glossy state and then remove gun/iron. Do not allow the joint to move while the solder cools.

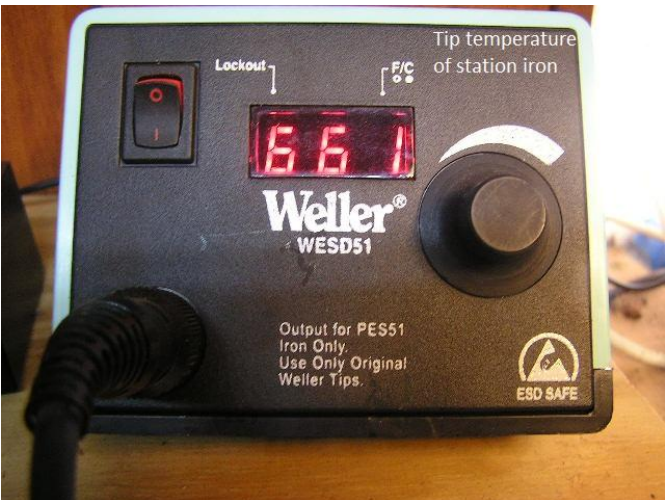
Practice makes perfect. Practice with scrap material. Use a well lighted work area (with magnification if necessary!) Be patient because any skill takes time to develop.



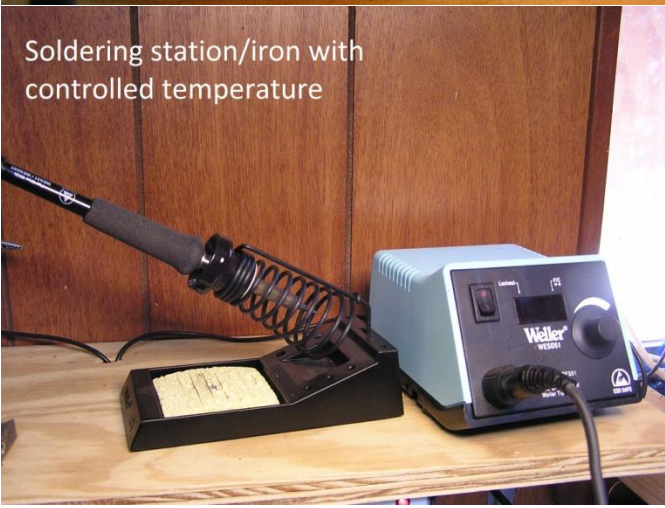
140 watt for medium size work



325 watt soldering gun for heavier work



325 watt gun for coax connectors



Soldering station/iron with controlled temperature

