



## 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 446.460 (EasyPal)**  
(10 MINUTE BEACON)

David Keene W5DBK, editor-in-training

Email comments to [W5DBK.dave@gmail.com](mailto:W5DBK.dave@gmail.com)

**May 2011** Volume 2 No. 5

---

# Fannin County Amateur Radio Club

## K5FRC

### Minutes for April 16, 2011

---

The regular monthly meeting of the Fannin County Amateur Radio Club was called to order. The president, Mike Durbin K5MJD, lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. There were twenty-four members present.

Mike said he had a few things to cover a little out of the regular order this morning.

First he wanted to fill us in on what happened on the 13 machine this week. He said that the 13 repeater has been coordinated since last November. Our construction permit was done then and done legally no matter what may have been said on the air. The fact that Texas VHF-FM Society did not publish it is irrelevant. We did coordinate with Oklahoma at the time because as Mike said he was at sea on the ship which confused them at the time. "How do you coordinate a repeater in Texas when you are in Turkey?" "Trust me..." We coordinated 13. They said they were contacting Oklahoma and giving them two weeks. After two weeks we contacted our Texas VHF-FM Society and told them we were ready to move over to the 13 frequency. We will put it up on the air to see if there is any conflict and listened for two weeks and never heard a signal. So we went to 13 and have been there ever since. So, we are coordinated. Mike talked to the Texas VHF-FM Society and the Oklahoma 13 repeater station KM5SB will be moving next week to 145.17. Meanwhile, they are not going to turn theirs off until then. They are very upset about it and Mike is asking everyone in our club to be very polite to them and very professional about the situation even if they are not. If you don't want to talk to them, set your tone squelch on the 13 machine to 100 and you won't hear their repeater. We will hear them on ours because we have our tone off. If you hear any remarks directed at any individual or threats please record it or write it down.

Mike stated that the minutes had been on the web site now for a week and if anyone that had not read them wanted to he had a copy. David Reeder WA0URJ made motion to accept the minutes as posted. Jennifer Peaco seconded and the motion passed.

In the absence of Treasurer Carly Tassan KE5ZKV, Jody Lindsey gave an informal oral treasury report based on information given her at the meeting. The bank statement showed there had been no checks since the one written for \$154 to Marsh for insurance payment. This gave us a total of \$1729.22 in checking. Jody had made a deposit into the savings account of \$25 back in January plus we gained interest of \$.30 which gives a total of \$1204.43 in the savings account. Mike Lindsey made the motion to accept her report and David Keene W5DBK seconded it. The motion passed. Mike informed us that he and David Keene had done an inventory update at the request of Marsh Insurance and we are now insured for \$8045 and the premium is \$121. The club should be receiving a refund since the last payment was over the new inventory total.

Gary Stone N5PHT has volunteered to be in charge of the repairs that need to be done to the HF antenna and getting the HF room and equipment usable. He asked if it would be alright when they take the antenna down for repairs that the antenna stored in the room which is usually used on the tower

trailer be put in its place while they are there. Then that antenna could then be repaired and made ready in time to be used on the trailer for Field Day. No motion was made, but everyone present agreed. There was also some discussion about, while this work is being done, also replacing the 2m vertical antenna that has had half of it had blown off. This was also well received by the group and Mike said he had a dual band antenna to use. Gary will be posting on Fanninhams a day and time for volunteers to help.

Jeff Cotner KF5HZR gave is an overview of the prices he found for the LMR-400 coax. Last month the club had voted to purchase a 1000 foot roll for club use and to sell to club members for their personal use for the same price paid by the club since the price of copper is going up so fast it could save us money in the long run. Jeff Cotner was designated to locate the best price. Based on Jeff's search MTC in Paris is the current lowest price at \$.70 a foot for a 1000ft roll. Steve Ten Eyck KE5CXT said he thought he could get it for \$.50 a foot. Danny Loyd made a motion that if they could get it for \$.70 or lower that the club go ahead and make the purchase. Motion passed. It was agreed that if the price came out close that we support the MTC in Paris because he is close to us. A poll of potential purchasers was taken which totaled over 1200ft. including the 200ft needed by the club. The Darrell Brewer KE5JHN made the motion that since so many wanted to purchase it and the club also needs about 200 feet that we go ahead and get two rolls. Mike Lindsey KD5UNY seconded the motion. This motion was amended to say that if the price was in the \$.50 range that we get two 1000 ft. rolls. Motion passed.

Robin Warren KE5DQM had volunteered by way of Fanninhams to work on setting up practice weather nets, spotter coordination, and training for weather nets. Steve Ten Eyck KF5CXT volunteered to work with Robin. The practice weather nets could be after the Tuesday night net, or at another scheduled time, but it was decided the best way to practice for weather nets is to call the net up anytime un-announced since, like the weather, you don't always know ahead of time. Spotter coordinator needs to encourage everyone to pick themselves out a place they like to spot from each time that they know they can drive to and this assigned spot would be on the grid map used by the weather service and the net controller. You then sign in to the net from that spot and will be re-assigned by the net control if necessary. This would simplify things for the weather service and the spotters would not have to drive all over the county. Danny Loyd KE5WDI suggested having a call down system or text message system of notifying everyone that might be a spotter of the net since not everyone has their radio on all the time or may have turned it off due to lighting in the area. Steve and Robin will be working on a notification system. Mary Hackney KE5WDJ brought up the point that the net controller should be in a fixed location, not mobile. It was agreed that fixed is better. And the net control should be totally in charge. Unless someone comes up and says "Break, break" they should not be transmitting. Mike Durbin reminded everyone that the courtesy tone on Echo Link is there for a reason. The weather service is coming up through the internet and cannot transmit to us if you do not wait with dead air three to five seconds you are not going to hear them. If we are there first they cannot get in and if they are there first and we transmit the repeater mixes the two. Practice will help alleviate the panic mode many seem to get into when spotting. Danny Loyd suggested having a class to learn how to be net control. Mike Warren shared how the Arlington club had practice nets with laid out scenarios on simplex frequencies. He said it worked quiet well to teach how to do it and was done often enough to help remove some that panic mode.

The possibility of having another net earlier on Tuesday or another day of the week and the various reasons for it was discussed. Nothing was decided. Training after the net was also suggested and this

would be good for an early net. Danny Loyd KE5WDI, net coordinator for the club, will be working on setting this up.

Darrell Brewer announced that he had the club on the agenda at the Commissioners Court on Monday, April 25 to ask for permission to use the old new jail on County Road 4200 for Field Day. They meet at 9:00 AM.

Mike Lindsey KD5UNY said he had made a list of things needed to be done for Field Day and anyone wanting to help needs to get with him to go over this list. Some have already volunteered. He will be putting out messages on Fanninhams also. Mike is the Field Day over all coordinator. Gary Stone N5PHT will be helping with radio portions contesting.

A question was asked about RAILS. Mike Durbin gave an overview of the system, how it works, how to use it and why it is good for us in Fannin County.

Mike Lindsey made a motion to adjourn and go to the presentation on DXing by Gary Stone N5PHT. Ivan Burton seconded. The motion passed.

---

Kathy Brewer KE5SLG

Secretary

## What's in your toolbox?

Every ham shack needs a very minimum of 2 instruments: a VOM (volt, ohm, milliamp) meter for general trouble shooting and a SWR meter for RF measurements. A VOM can come in 2 varieties, analog or digital. Analog meters have largely been replaced by newer digital meters but there are still a lot of them around and they can still be very useful, especially if you are watching a varying signal. Digital VOMs (also called DVM) come in 2 broad categories; manual and auto ranging. The manual meter must be set for the range or magnitude manually as well as the function. For example, if you need to measure a voltage that you expect to be about 12 volts DC, you would set the meter to the lowest range that will cover the expected value; in this case, the 0-20 DC volt range. You will also need to observe the correct polarity for DC measurements. For an auto ranging meter, you would only need to select the DC volt function and the meter would read the correct value and polarity. However, autoranging will not save you or the meter if you try to measure 120 volts AC with the meter set to measure amps!! Similar rules apply for ohms and amps.

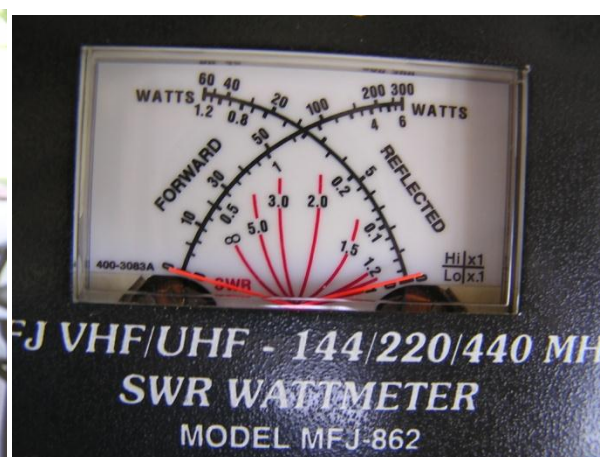


Auto range DVM



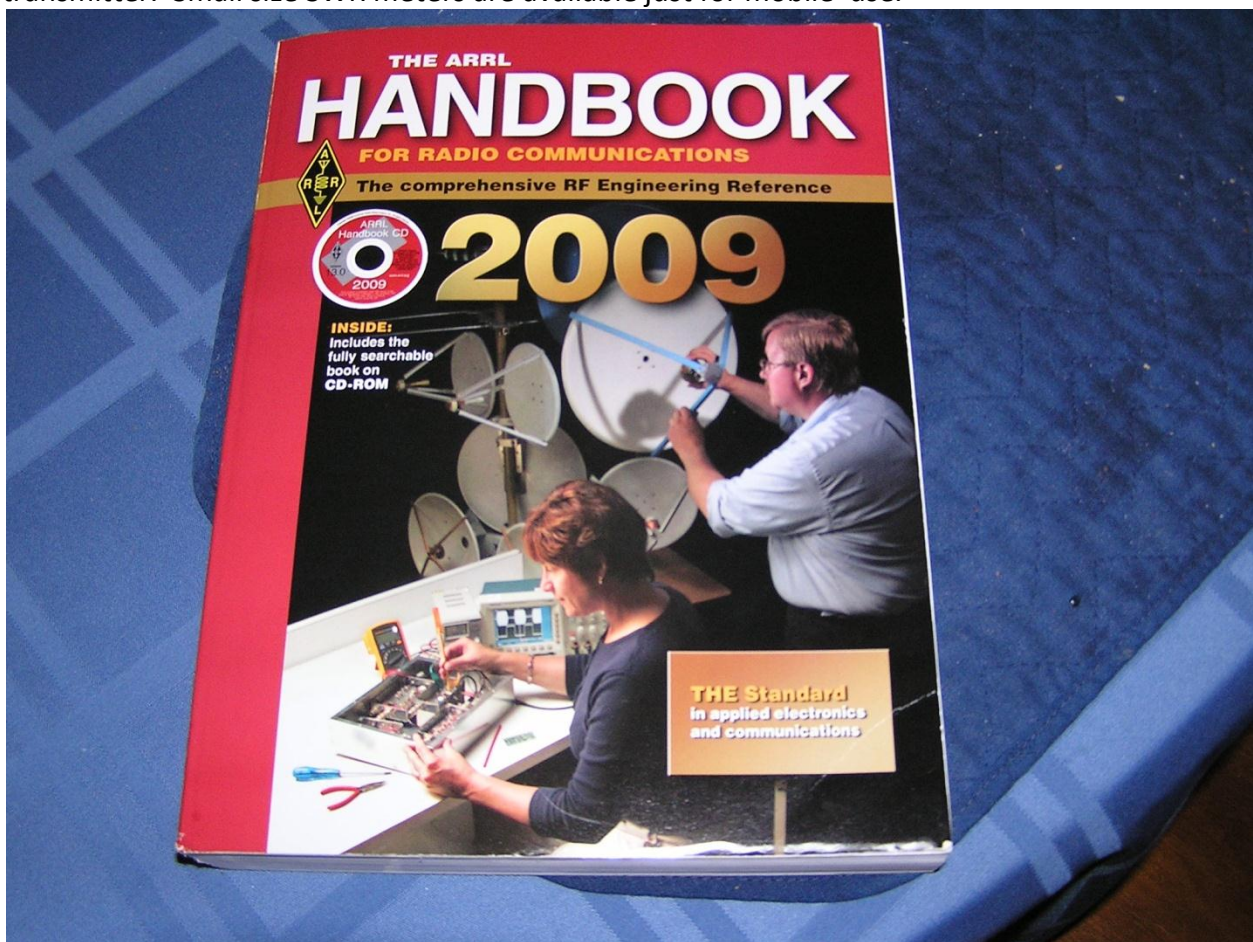
Manual range DVM

For antenna work, a SWR meter is critical.



## Analog VHF/UHF SWR meter

SWR meters are usually offered as separate meters for HF work and VHF/UHF although this is changing as more and more rigs cover “all bands”. One major use of SWR meters is to “adjust” your antenna for “best” operation. The meter can help you determine if your antenna is too short or too long, if your coax has a break or short circuit, or an intermittent condition. Another major use is to monitor your antenna. For example, most mobile VHF/UHF rigs do not have a built-in means to monitor your antenna. With a SWR meter in the line, you have a full time monitor to indicate antenna or feed line problems. Long term use of a mobile rig with a broken antenna or feed line will give poor performance and may also damage the final amplifier of the transmitter. Small size SWR meters are available just for mobile use.



The Amateur Handbook is a valuable resource that every amateur should take advantage of. It has excellent chapters devoted to building antennas and then chapters on using VOMs and SWR meters to operate and trouble shoot these antennas after installation.

Dave Keene

W5DBK

=====

**2011 ARRL Field Day**

---

The Fannin County Amateur Radio Club will hold their 2011 Field day at "The Fannin County Law Enforcement Center" on FM 4200 on Saturday, June 25. FM 4200 is on the South side of Hwy 121 just South of Bonham (FM 4200 intersection is across from Amlin Pump Service). There will be stations working on most bands from HF to UHF. The 145.470 (no tone) repeater will be monitored if you need directions or other information.

---