



W5PC

THE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY NEWSLETTER

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 16, NO. 7

JULY 2006 ISSUE

ARCPC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

JIM SPAULDING WØUO

VICE PRESIDENT

AL WARREN WR5AW

SECRETARY- TREASURER

FLOYD MAY N5ORJ

DIRECTORS

JAMES ADAMS AD5KG
BOB GILL K5BG

CLUB SERVICES

W5PC TRUSTEE

WILL TEAGUE W5CX

HOSPITALITY

JUDY WOLF KB5JEY

RACES-ARES

ALLEN BEADLE KB5AB

VE TESTING

DOUG MAY WB5VQQ

NEWSLETTER

WILL TEAGUE W5CX

EDUCATION-CLASS FACILICATOR

JIM SPAULDING WØUO

FIELD DAY

BOB GILL K5BG

HAM FEST

AL WARREN WR5AW

HISTORIAN- WEBMASTER

WILL TEAGUE W5CX

BPL PRESENTATION



JORY Mc Intosh KJ5RM, ARRL Assistant Director presented an excellent and detailed program on Broadband over Power Lines (BPL). Using visual aids, he gave examples of what BPL is and what the effects are on ham radio. Jory told about his experience with BPL companies and how to confront them by reporting incidents of interference on the ham bands. Jory can be contacted via email at KJ5RM@KJ5RM.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARCPC VE TESTING

VE testing for all license classes and upgrades will be conducted on the third Thursday of each month, except November and December, at 7:00 pm at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1706 S. Main St. Weatherford. Enter side door of main building

ARCPC PROGRAM

July's program will be presented by NWS Skywarn team member, Mike Heskett WB5QLD.

ARCPC did another great job at Aledo Bike Ride.

The Ride for Heroes donated \$250 to ARCPC again this year.

NEXT

ARCPC MEETING

Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 pm Weatherford Community Center 701 Narrow Street, Weatherford, TX
Talk-in on 147.040
Tone 110.9

PARKER/PALO PINTO INFORMATION NET:

Mondays at 7:00 pm on
147.040 (tone 110.9) Alt:

THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE

By Jim Spaulding, WØUO

When we speak of culture, we are speaking of the “unwritten rules” which often guide our behavior, sometimes for good, sometimes not. Perhaps a story will help illustrate.

There were four monkeys in a zoo. In their cage, there was a pole with a bunch of bananas on the top. Every time a monkey tried to climb the pole, a zoo keeper sprayed him with a fire hose, knocking him off the pole. It didn't take long for the monkeys to learn that climbing the pole in pursuit of bananas was a good way to get hurt. Accordingly, they stopped climbing.

Unfortunately, one of the monkeys died and another monkey was introduced into the cage. In no time, the monkey was told not to climb the pole, or he would surely get a nasty surprise. In due time, the zookeeper quit his job.

As the monkeys passed on and were replaced by younger monkeys, each was warned against climbing the pole. Eventually the original four monkeys had passed away, each replaced by a younger monkey, none of which would climb the pole in pursuit of the bananas.

This is one way of saying that even though all the people have changed, the culture remains, even if the reason for it no longer exists. All human organizations suffer from this phenomenon. Periodically, we need to rethink the culture, or “unwritten rules” to see if they are still appropriate.

Whenever you hear the phrase “we have always done it this way”, please take the time to think through the issue. It may be that there is a better way.

HOW TO MEASURE AND DOCUMENT BPL INTERFERENCE

By Jim Spaulding WØUO

Broadband over Powerline (BPL) is coming to Parker County and to Weatherford. Although we are in hopes that the technologies that will be used will be relatively interference free, there is no guarantee. Accordingly, in order to protect our frequencies from interference, it will be necessary for us to make measurements to support our objections.

Fortunately, these kinds of measurements are relatively easy to make. What is needed includes your normal amateur gear (with an S meter) and a step attenuator such as the Vectronics VEC-862. This device is capable of 0 to 81 db of attenuation in 1 db steps. MFJ makes a similar model and, if you would like a homebrew project, there are examples of similar devices on page 19-52 of the 2005 or 2006 ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook or page 27-43 of the 20th Edition of the ARRL Antenna Book. By making these measurements, you will be able to quantify any interference produced by a BPL system as an increase in background noise level or the strength of a discrete carrier. This information will be invaluable in making our case.

Record your findings on a chart or spreadsheet. Be sure to include antenna, antenna direction, frequency, mode, bandwidth, preselector/attenuator setting, date and time of day. If you are making these measurements with a mobile rig be sure to do so from the same spot each time, recording this information as well.

By making these measurements, you will be able to quantify any interference produced by a BPL system as an increase in background noise level or the strength of a discrete carrier. This information will be invaluable in making our case.

If you would like to serve on a BPL Committee, or if you would like further information, please feel free to send me an email at w0uo@citbroadband.com.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Minutes of the June 2006 Meeting

The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County met on Tuesday, June 13 at Weatherford Community Center. President Jim Spaulding WØUO called the meeting. Jay Beavers K5XO gave the invocation. The minutes of the last meeting were presented. A motion was made by Elizabeth Hunkele N5ONE and seconded by Jay Beavers K5XO that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

There were 11 visitors at the club meeting. George Odom Jr., Fred Beasley K5FRD, Bill Stearns ex-N7VWQ, Lauren Ashley Bearden, Cindy Bearden, Savannah Bearden, Noah Bearden, Joshua Bearden, Landry Bearden, Zachary Bearden and Jory Mc Intosh KJ5RM.

There were 18 members in attendance at the meeting. This was a very good turnout.

Bob Gill K5BG, talked about 2006 Field Day that is coming on Saturday, June 24, 2006. The club will be operating 2A this year. Set up will start on Saturday morning at 7:00 AM at Cartwright Park. Crew to set up and operators to work the stations are needed. Bob covered the equipment that will be needed.

The 2006-2007 budget was presented by Jim Spaulding WØUO, President of the ARCPC and discussed by the membership. A motion was made by Beth Thompson K5BLT and seconded by Lanny Priddy K5LP that the budget be accepted. The motion passed.

Doug May WB5VQQ, took a moment to remind the membership and visitors that testing is conducted on a regular basis at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Weatherford at 7:00 PM each month.

A motion was made by Jerry Thompson W7JT and seconded by Doug May WB5VQQ, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Floyd May N5ORJ
Secretary/Treasurer

Jake Sez!

We could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism

CONTINUING EDUCATION

By Jim Spaulding WØUO

One of the primary purposes of the Amateur Radio Club of Parker County is to provide emergency communications. Although I have been extremely active in Ham Radio for almost 50 years, I have never sufficiently prepared myself for this kind of activity. In addition, it is apparent that since 9-11 and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, additional requirements have been placed on emergency communicators. To meet the new requirements, many of us must retrain ourselves.

Accordingly, I have decided to take advantage of the training offered by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). I intend to take the FEMA Self Study Program along with Level 1, 2, and 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses. I am in hopes of finishing these courses by next spring.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if at least one third of the club membership could complete all four courses, one third three courses and the remainder two courses? Is it possible that the club, as a whole, would be more effective in responding to emergency situations?

You can sign up for these courses through the ARRL Web Site, <http://www.arrl.org>. Be sure to register early, as you will be required to complete a short sample on line course. Prices are \$45 for ARRL members and \$75 for non-members.

= NOTICE =

The next Club Meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday July 11, 2006
in the Weatherford Community Center
701 Narrow Street, Weatherford, TX

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
LICENSE CLASS: (E)(A)(G)(TP)(T)(N) ARRL MEMBER: (YES) (NO) STATUS: (NEW) (RENEWAL)
(CIRCLE APPLICABLE ANSWERS ON ABOVE LINE)
ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP (plus 4): _____
PHONE: HOME: _____ WORK: _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00. HAM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 (+ 1 same household or full time college student) (Add an additional \$5.00 if you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter).

HAM FAMILY MEMBER NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

Cut out and mail this application to the ARCPC Secretary/Treasurer along with you check or money order for the amount due. Or, bring it to the next regular club meeting.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JUNE

W5PC

**FIRST CLASS
MAIL**

**AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1795
WEATHERFORD, TX 76086**



www.qsl.net/w5pc