



W5PC

THE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY NEWSLETTER

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 18, NO. 11

NOVEMBER 2008 ISSUE

ARCPC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

AL WARREN WR5AW

VICE PRESIDENT

*ELIZABETH HUNKELE
N5ONE*

**SECRETARY-
TREASURER**

KEITH SUDAY N5LGV

DIRECTORS

*BOB GILL K5BG
JIM SPAULDING W0UO*

CLUB SERVICES

W5PC TRUSTEE
WILL TEAGUE W5CX

HOSPITALITY
JUDY WOLF KB5JEY

RACES-ARES
ALLEN BEADLE KB5AB

VE TESTING
DOUG MAY WB5VQQ

**EDUCATION-CLASS
FACILICATOR**
TBA

FIELD DAY 2009
TBA

HAM FEST
*ELIZABETH HUNKELE
N5ONE*

WEBMASTER
AL WARREN WR5AW

**NEWSLETTER-
HISTORIAN**
WILL TEAGUE W5CX

PUBLIC RELATIONS
TBA

NOTICE

ARCPC members that haven't paid their dues as of November 1, 2008 have been dropped from the club roster. If you would like to renew your membership for 2009, please contact the club Secretary/Treasurer Keith Sunday N5LGV.

JIM SPAULDING W0UO RECEIVES PAST PRESIDENT AWARD



In the above photo, ARCPC President Al Warren WR5AW presents Jim Spaulding W0UO with a plaque showing the club's appreciation for his service as president for the past two years.

Below is a list of ARCPC Presidents both past and present.

ARCPC PRESIDENTS:

R.H. "Mike" Michael W5QGC 1983-1985*	Allen Beadel N5WJZ 1997-1999 (now KB5AB)
Dick Pickett N5FRG 1985-1986*	Will Teague W5CX 1999-2001
Glen Eastman WI5J 1986-1987*	Allen "Griff" Griffith N5AG 2001-2002
Bob Park WB5MSH 1987-1989	Jerry Thompson K5JWT 2002-2004 now W7JT)
Bob Gill WD5F 1989-1991 (now K5BG)	Will Teague W5CX 2004-2005
Floyd May N5ORJ 1991-1993	James Adams AD5KG 2005-2006
Allen Beadel N5WJZ 1993-1995 (now KB5AB)	Jim Spaulding W0UO 2006-2008
Dwaine Cannon WK5I 1995-1996 (now K5DC)	Al Warren WR5AW 2008-Present
Steve Vineyard KJ5RV 1996-1997	

* **Silent Keys**

ASK PERRY: WHY IS THE ARRL IN CONNECTICUT?

From: The ARRL Letter

Every once in a while, ARRL Archivist Perry Williams, W1UED -- a rich source of information about the early days of the League -- runs across a question that really needs an answer. Earlier this month, someone posed this question to Perry: Why was Connecticut chosen as the site for ARRL?

"To answer that question," Perry explained, "consider a parable: Why did the tree choose to grow in this forest? Because that is where the seed fell on fertile ground. The seed that became ARRL fell on Hartford, Connecticut in 1914. When it sprouted, it was cultivated initially by two men: Hiram Percy Maxim, 1WH (he became W1AW after World War I), and Clarence D. Tuska, 1WD,

"Maxim was an inventor in a family of inventors, an industrialist. He was founder of the Maxim Silencer Company, making devices to keep firearms and engines quiet, as well as a principal in a company involved first in making bicycles and then autos. He was also a writer with an early interest in motion pictures (he was also founder of the Amateur Cinematographic League) and on and on. Most of these activities were in or near Hartford, where he lived with his family.

"Tuska manned the hoe and trowel around the ARRL seedling. Soon after the ARRL's founding, Maxim settled in as President, an office he held until his death in 1936. In those early days, Tuska served as Secretary.

Together, Maxim and Tuska founded the magazine QST as a private venture in 1915 out of their own pockets; Tuska was its Editor until the United States got into WWI and amateurs were taken off the air. Tuska closed down the 'offices' of ARRL and QST -- they were in his mother's kitchen

-- and joined the Army." Williams said that the story doesn't end here

-- to find out more, please see "Two Hundred Meters and Down," by Clinton B DeSoto, W1CDB (SK) <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0011>>.

Williams continued: "By the time the Tree had grown to the point to merit relocation elsewhere (this issue has been examined many times by the ARRL's elected, unpaid Board), transplanting it never came out as

feasible: The Hartford-area roots were too deep."

ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

From: The ARRL Letter

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter?

One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>>.



SECRETARY'S NOTES

Minutes of the October 2008 Meeting

The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at the Weatherford Community Center. President Al Warren WR5AW called the meeting to order at 19:33. There were 17 members and 2 guests present. The invocation was given by Ken Stout KE5QBZ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jim Spaulding WØUO ranked number 10 in Stu Perry competition. Al Warren WR5AW ranked number 5 in the 5th call district in a recent RTTY contest. Jim Spaulding WØUO was awarded a plaque by the club for his service to the club during the last two years. Will Teague W5CX gave a reminder that members would be dropped from the club roster for non-payment of current year dues. To use the club mailing list (members@w5pc.org), your current email address must be on the authorized "send list" maintained by the webmaster. Keep your email address current by informing Al Warren WR5AW of any address changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the September 2008 meeting were approved by the members present. John Garrison W5BNX reports that the club's HF beam is not finished being repaired. It is waiting on a new boom. The U.S. Isle on the Air event discussed at a previous meeting is not ready due to lack of equipment and a site has not been surveyed. The project has been put on hold.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Aledo Ride For Hero's and ARCPC Hamfest 2009. There is a date conflict between these two events. They both are scheduled for March 28, 2009. A suggestion was made to change the date of the ARCPC hamfest. After a lengthy discussion by the members present; a motion was made by John Garrison W5BNX to keep the hamfest date as 3-28-09. The motion was seconded by Bob Gill K5BG. The motion was passed by the members present to not change the hamfest date. The issue of supporting the Ride For Hero's is "to be determined" pending further research. The posting club members Emergency Management training on the club website is being studied by the webmaster Al Warren WR5AW.

Chili, chips, cookies and drinks were provided by Judy Wolf KB5JEY.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:06

Respectfully submitted

By Keith Sunday, N5LGV, Secretary/Treasurer

PROGRAM:

The program for the evening was a "show and tell" by several members of their portable antennas and "go kits" for use in emergency and field situations with explanations of their types and construction techniques.

Thanks to all that participated. A special thanks to John Garrison W5BNX for his extra effort using his home built test setup showing how gain, directivity and front to back are achieved in antennas.

ARCPC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 2008 PROGRAM

"The Secret Wireless War" The presentation will be given by Jim Spaulding WØUO.

PARKER/PALO PINTO INFORMATION NET

Mondays at 7:00 pm on 147.040 (tone 110.9) Alt: 146.900 or 443.800

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 HOSPITALITY

November, 2008 Meeting

Refreshments including coffee, soft drinks and cookies.



Judy
KB5JEY

Jake Sez!



*"The cure for boredom is curiosity,
for which there is no cure"*

ASK THE ELMER

The Vertical Antenna at HF

By Jim Spaulding WØUO

Many amateurs new to HF begin their adventure with vertical antennas. Verticals, when properly installed, have many advantages such as low cost, ease of installation, small visual impact, and reasonable performance. Let's briefly review the theory behind vertical antennas and their proper installation and use.

The basic vertical antenna consists of a quarter wavelength radiator, one half the length of a half wave dipole. Its length in feet can be derived from the formula $234/f$ where f is the frequency in megahertz. The feed point impedance, and in this case the radiation resistance, of a quarter wavelength vertical is one half that of a dipole, or 36 ohms.

The radiating element is only one half of the antenna system, the other half consists of the ground, a ground radial system, or elevated radials. The efficiency of the antenna system depends, primarily, on the efficiency of the ground system. For instance, if the ground system adds 14 ohms of resistance, the efficiency of the antenna becomes $36/50$ or 72 percent. You can determine the efficiency with the formula $(R_{rad}/(R_{rad}+R_{loss}))$.

Vertical antennas provide omni directional radiation patterns characterized by low wave angles. They do not, however, realize ground reflection gain the way dipoles do, and are, accordingly, 6 db down (1/4 the power) from the main lobe of a dipole with an equivalent wave angle. What does this mean? A properly installed quarter wavelength vertical on the 20 meter band, will be 6 db down from the main lobe of a 20 meter dipole placed 70 ft above ground. The dipole, however, has a bidirectional pattern. Its wave angle is dependent on height above ground. The vertical has an omni directional pattern, and its wave angle is not dependent on height above ground. The vertical can easily outperform a dipole placed at less than optimum height. Accordingly, verticals are almost always preferred for use on 1.8 MHz and 3.5 MHz and sometimes 7 MHz. To achieve equivalent wave angles, dipoles for these frequencies must be installed at heights of 260, 130, and 75 feet respectively.

The following guidelines will help you maximize the efficiency of a vertical antenna:

Ground mounted: Ground mounted verticals should have many ground radials, each one quarter wavelength long at the lowest frequency. I would suggest a minimum of 16. The point of diminishing returns is 60. For instance, if you have a trapped vertical for 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, install at least 16 33 ft radials. If you have the time and materials, shoot for 60. The feed line is best run underground to a point outside the radials system.

Elevated: Elevated verticals should be placed high with respect to ground, perhaps on the roof of your house. Quarter wavelength verticals placed at least an eight wavelength above ground function well with as few as two radials. The radials, however, should be placed symmetrically around the base of the vertical. Multiband verticals should have at least two radials per band, each a quarter wavelength long, spaced symmetrically around the base of the vertical. The feed line should be run straight away from the vertical. A common mode choke should be placed in the feed line just beyond the longest radial. This can either be a commercial choke or a coil wound in the feed line. Consult the ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book for details.

ATTENTION

If you would like to submit an article to be published in the ARCPC monthly newsletter, please email it to the editor at w5cx@mesh.net.

Please try to keep the article size down to one or two pages maximum. Articles are needed and here's your chance to get your first or hundredth article published. You do not have to be an ARCPC member to get your article published in the newsletter. All subjects related to amateur radio are welcome. The newsletter has to be finished one week prior to the next club meeting. Therefore, it is important that submissions be made as early as possible.

= NOTICE =

**The next club meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday November 11, 2008
at , Weatherford, TX
Talk-in 147.04 and Tone 110.9**

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
LICENSE CLASS: (E)(A)(G)(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: _____

INITIATION FEE: One time initiation fee per family - \$5.00

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