



W5PC

THE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY NEWSLETTER

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 21 NO. 12

DECEMBER 2011 ISSUE

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Former ARCPC Member Fred Muehlen N5WLA SK

Obituary From the Azle News Online



Frederick Donald Muehlen, Jr. died Saturday, Nov. 12. A celebration of life service will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Hilltop Family Church in Springtown.

Frederick was born May 2, 1956 in Huntington, New York to Fred and Fran Muehlen.

He served in the United States Air Force for four years, then worked as a technician for NCR and General Dynamics. He received his electrical engineering degree in 1989 from UTA. He had been employed with the FAA for over 20 years, where he made some of the most meaningful friendships of his life.

One of his passions was ham radio. He was known to many in the Amateur Ham Radio community as N5WLA, the call sign under which he won numerous awards for national contesting. His other passions included music, nature and hiking.

Mr. Muehlen was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Susan Muehlen.

Survivors include his wife of 26 years, Kathy; sons, Freddy III and wife De'Ana and grandson Memphis and expected granddaughter Crosby; and son Matthew, all of Azle; sisters, Kaki Fisher and husband Robert of New York and Elizabeth King and husband Larry of Colorado.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Carter Blood Bank, Special Olympics or Heifer International.

ARCPC SILENT KEYS

Lorraine Baldwin KD5KTF

Ray Baldwin KD5KTG

Donna Beadel N5WJI

Jerry Bowling WA5OQJ

Charles Byers WB5AQI

Charles E. Cox Jr N5ZPF

Bobby D. Cremeen WA5VPA

John Dykes W5RON

Glen Eastman WI5J

Velon Eddins WB5FPI

Ralph Ewing WB5WSN

William (Bill) Graham WA5OCB

John L (Red) Gray WB5QPC

Odell C. (Bill) Guess KC5GVO

Danny Gundlach KD5VHR

Jeff (Pat) Hartnett W5TJD

John R. Hester WA5FLZ

Harold E. Hunkele W5HEH

Z.C. (Jake) Jacobs W5KIK

Francis M. Laird AA5DT

Preston Lockhart KE5LI

Leo T. Martin W5TTR

Bobby V. Mercer KD5EEE

R.H. (Mike) Michael W5QGC

Fred Muehlen N5WLA

Bob Park WB5MSH

Dick Pickett N5FRG

Laurance (Lanny) Priddy K5LP

James H. Rhodes N5ZKA

Jim Bob Scott K5WQH

John N. Sewell N5LWZ

William (Skip) Skipper K0ARG

Bob Sonnenberg N5BJO

Vernon Stuart N5PEA

Beth Thompson K5BLT

Orville Wolf WA4IXN

Lawrence (Larry) Zellers KE5XX

CLUB BUSINESS

Minutes of the November 2011 Meeting



The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County met on November 15, 2011. President Tony Guess N5NRU called the meeting to order at 19:02 hours. The invocation was given by Clay Riley KC0BWR.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mark Allen, W6PC complied with a request to introduce himself. Mark is knowledgeable about antennas and welcomes your questions.

OLD BUSINESS: A motion was passed accepting the October minutes as published in the newsletter. Following a discussion of Christmas on the Square (Dec 3), a motion was passed and the club will not participate

NEW BUSINESS:

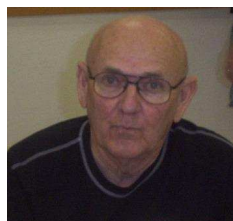
During Christmas party planning, Tony, N5NRU will be reimbursed for meats (beef and ham). Members will bring their favorite side dish or dessert to share.

The December meeting will be the Christmas Party. Minimal business will be conducted. The January meeting will be a regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1932 hours.

Following the meeting, Clay Riley, KC0BWR presented a program about Emergency Preparedness.

Judy Wolf, KB5JEY and Tim Smith, KF5HMH provided drinks and snacks.



Respectfully submitted
By Jerry Thompson W7JT, Secretary/Treasurer

The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County

Our History

The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County was originally envisioned by R.H. Michael, W5QGC and John L. Gray WB5QPC during the summer of 1983. W5QGC, at his own expense, drafted and printed the constitution and by-laws of the association. The constitution and by-laws were signed on North Main Street at the place of Business of Charlie Byars, WB5AQL.

The organizational meeting was held on June 28, 1983 in the Ham Shack of R. H. Michael. There were seventeen members present, of which thirteen were charter members, who after the charter and by-laws being read, unanimously voted to adopt the charter and by-laws as authored and ordered a copy distributed to each new member.

On July 11, 1989 the membership elected to incorporate under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The incorporation was finally completed on July 12, 1991 with the Secretary of State issuing Charter Number 0119940501. Bob Gill, Elizabeth Hunkele, Bob Park and Floyd May drafted the by-laws revision.

Since its inception, the "Club" has grown to its present membership. We participate in many civic activities and over the years Fort Worth has depended on us to give early warning of severe weather. It is a privilege to be an Amateur Radio Operator and we are proud to contribute what we can to its furtherance.

The Club currently meets on the second Tuesday night of each month at the Weatherford Community Center (Harberger Hill), 701 Narrow Street. Driving directions: Take North Main to Front Street (just North of the railroad tracks), turn right (East) on Front Street and go past the Greenwood Cemetery to Mill Street, turn left (North) on Mill Street and go to the intersection of Mill and Narrow Streets. The community center is located on the Northeast corner near the water tower. A social gathering begins at 6:30 P.M., with the official meeting beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Notice to all ARCPC Members

June first in due date for annual dues. If dues are not paid by November members are dropped from the club roster. Please support ARCPC and don't let this happen to you. Either contact the Secretary/Treasurer or attend the December meeting to bring your dues up to date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ARCPC HOSPITALITY

December, 2011 Meeting

Annual Christmas Party
Pot Luck bring a dish to share

Judy Wolf

KB5JEY



Tim Smith

KF5MHM



Jake Sez!

“Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain”

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.

PARKER/PALO PINTO INFORMATION NET

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

WC5C Net

147.16+ 110.9
 Thursdays at 8:00 pm - 8:45 pm
 on 147.16 110.9 Azle

Open directed net

All licensed amateurs TECH and above welcome
 Topics include ham-specific swap listings, social and technical talk, club activities and projects, bulletins and announcements.

DECEMBER 2011 ARCPC PROGRAM

The December ARCPC program will be the annual Christmas party. It will be held at the Weatherford community center. This is the same location that all ARCPC meetings are held.

Upcoming Ham Fests/Conventions

01/20/2012 | North Texas Section Convention (Cowtown Hamfest)

Location: Fort Worth, TX

Type: ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

Sponsor: Lockheed Martin Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.cowtownhamfest.com>

03/10/2012 | 10th Annual IARC Hamfest

Location: Irving, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Irving Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://irvingarc.org/iarchamfest.html>

03/24/2012 | ARC of Parker County Hamfest

Location: Weatherford, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Amateur Radio Club of Parker County

Website: <http://www.w5pc.org>

06/08/2012 | West Gulf Division Convention (Ham-Com)

Location: Plano, TX

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Ham-Com, Inc. & surrounding clubs

Website: <http://www.hamcom.org>

11/10/2012 | NCTECH 2012

Location: Azle, TX

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.we5c.org>

Happy Holidays

"The Night Before Christmas" Ham Radio-Style

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
 The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
 The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
 I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
 The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
 While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
 The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
 I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
 The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
 Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
 He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
 When he ended transmission with the words,
 "Old St. Nick".
 I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
 If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
 We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
 Then he came back and said,
 "I've emergency traffic!"
 His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
 If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
 I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
 Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
 As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
 He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
 "Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa,
 Diode!
 Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
 You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
 Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
 So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
 St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplow!
 Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,

As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
 Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
 His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
 "Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
 The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
 And he handed me a card that read,
 "QSL Via Bureau".
 His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
 I felt like a novice taking his test.
 His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
 This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
 I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
 I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
 Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
 He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
 He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
 And placed in it a large present for me.
 When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
 Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
 But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
 "Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"
 Merry Christmas from my house to yours!



Radio Days Are Back: Ham Radio Comeback

From: Discovery News Web Site

While smartphones get all the press, the FCC license more Amateur radio operators every year. Ham radio operators are being licensed at 20-25,000 per year. Many have a desire to speak with someone from a strange place. A ham radio operator can communicate with people around the globe or even astronauts in space by talking through a microphone or using Morse code.

The newest trend in American communication isn't another smartphone from Apple or Google but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Ham radio first took the nation by storm nearly a hundred years ago. Last month the FCC logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years. Compare that with 2005 when only 662,600 people hammed it up and you'll see why the American Radio Relay League -- the authority on all things ham -- is calling it a "golden age." "Over the last five years we've had 20-25,000 new hams a year," Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the group, told FoxNews.com.

The unusual slang term -- a "ham" is more properly known as an amateur radio operator -- described a poor operator when the first wireless operators started out in the early 1900s. At that time, government and coastal ships would have to compete with amateurs for signal time, because stations all battled for the same radio wavelength. Frustrated commercial operators called the amateurs "hams" and complained that they jammed up their signals.

People like John Pritchett have used the slang term ever since. "It takes an inquisitive mind that wants the challenge to speak with the rest of the world," Pritchett told FoxNews.com. "I meet a lot of people as a result amateur radio. It's a fascinating experience to meet somebody who you've talked to for years -- when you finally meet them and go, wow, that's you."

Pritchett has been a ham for over 35 years. He sits in his ham shack slowly turning the dial on his amateur radio and listening attentively for a voice. But he's not looking for aliens: Pritchett is dialing in to make contact with someone around the world.

"W6JWK, This is John in Fresno, California," he says. Pritchett can communicate with people around the globe or even astronauts in space.

With more people joining the hobby, local ham radio businesses are growing as well. Amateur Electronics Supply in Las Vegas sells everything to do with ham radios, from transceivers, amplifiers and antennas to handhelds.

"We have clientele from all walks of life," manager Luke Rohn told FoxNews.com. "We have church groups who are interested in ham radio for a viable source of communication in times of natural disaster. We have young kids that find ham radio interesting. Maybe they've heard about it through their father and grandfather and it's a lot of fun for them."

According to the American Radio Relay League, retirees and emergency groups are among the main reasons for the nearly 30,000 new hams that pick up the hobby each year.

Ham Radio is a boon for safety as well as a fun pastime: When normal communications methods fail and cellphone towers are jammed or down, ham radios will still work and can help out in disaster situations, because they don't require towers to relay the signal. "Amateur radio came into play very much during the major earthquake in the Bay Area in 1989. The only thing I had was a little handheld radio. Nothing else worked, telephones didn't work, cellphones didn't work, amateur radio just kept right on working," Pritchett said.

Looking to ham it up a bit with some friends? Try a fox hunt -- the radio equivalent of ham-to-ham combat. In a fox hunt, local amateur radio clubs search for a transmitter (called the fox) using their homemade antennas.

"The fox hunting is really fun -- the thrill of the chase, the competition of being the first to find the transmitter," said Rob Mavis, president of the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers club in Clovis, Calif.

Ham radio is inexpensive fun, as well: All you need is a couple hundred bucks to get started and a FCC license -- which is free, but requires a \$10 to \$12 fee to cover expenses.

So join the latest craze -- no iPhone app required.

= NOTICE =

**The next club meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday December 13, 2011
at the Weatherford Community Center, 701 Narrow Street 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.w5pc.org