



TARC Groundwire Newsletter

April 01, 2009
Published Monthly

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I write this I am listening to the TARC 2 Meter net, munching on an apple dumpling and drinking a glass of ice tea ... it just doesn't get any better than this. But it's time to get down to business.

It is now time to start thinking about officers for the Tyler Amateur Radio Club for our next year, which starts June 1st. We normally take the nominations for officers at the April club meeting and elect new officers at the May club meeting. This is all spelled out in glorious detail our club bylaws.

You will soon receive an e-mail soliciting your suggestions for club officers for the new year. The natural tendency is to look around you and see who you might be a good leader and put that name forward. A lot of you will probably do that. However, I would like to suggest something a little different. Rather than looking around you, I would suggest you look within yourself and consider taking one of the leadership positions of our club. That's right ... **nominate yourself.** Who knows your skills and interests and love of this great hobby better than you? We need people who have new ideas for projects and meeting topics. We need people who believe in the value of volunteerism. We need people who like working with other people ... whether they are in our club or part of the community we seek to serve.

Amateur radio has been a part of my life for the past 35 years. I have been a member of amateur radio clubs in Florida, California, Nevada and now Texas. And, while I have done a lot of different things in this great hobby, I have never taken a leadership role in any of the radio clubs I had joined ... that is until this year. My point in all this is to say that I brought no special skills or experience to the job. There is no class you can go to that prepares you to serve. There is no pill you take. You simply need a love for the hobby and a desire to see that it doesn't die.

I took this job with the expectation that it would be for only one year. My wife and I have made plans to do some traveling starting summer of 2009. So, I will take a year or so to focus on her and us and leave other commitments behind for a while. And I can leave this job with the full knowledge that there are plenty of good people who can take my place. **Maybe you are one of them?!?**

73's
Paul Paulson
K5PFP



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NEW MEMBERS / LICENSE UPGRADES

Current TARC paid membership roster now stands at 63.

The following person passed the Technician test at the March VE Test session:
Hubert Rainey - KE5ZRQ - Welcome Hubert to the world of Amateur Radio!



TARC MONTHLY MEETING INFO / UPCOMING EVENTS

The Tyler Amateur Radio Club meets every third Thursday of every month at the Shiloh Road Church Of Christ at Shiloh and Paluxy - Tyler, TX at 7:00 p.m. Club meetings are open to all interested persons, ham and non-ham alike, regardless of club membership.

A FREE DRAWING is held each meeting for a Ham related item. You must be present to win.



HAMFEST INFO

HamEXPO - April 18, 2009

Temple Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.beltonhamexpo.org>

Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 123.0)

Contact: Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ
1802 South 13th Street
Temple, TX 76504-7364
Phone: 254-773-3590
Fax: 254-231-4128
Email: expo@tarc.org

VE TESTING INFO

VE testing is conducted on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM at the American Red Cross building on Rieck Road in Tyler, Texas unless otherwise changed for special reasons, such as holidays. Listen to the TARC net each week @ 8:00 PM Monday, on the 147.000 repeater for any necessary changes. Mac McGraw, AE5FH is the Contact VE contact. His e-mail is bnmcgraw@suddenlink.net His phone Number is 903-839-7916.



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*****No VE TEST Session in April – Easter Sunday*****

ITEMS FOR SALE

The TARC Webmaster, KD5KIZ, Gaylen Gage has provided a "For Sale" link on the website.

Please visit www.tylerarc.org/forsale.htm

TARC WEEKLY NET

The Tyler Amateur Radio Club also conducts a weekly net on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. on the club's 147.00 MHz repeater, - offset and 88.5 tone. The net is open to all licensed hams regardless of club membership.

Good repeater info for new Techs: www.hamuniverse.com/repeater.html

CURRENT TARC OFFICERS

President	Paul Paulson	K5PFP
Vice President	Art Sharp	K5LXK
Mark Taylor	Secretary/Treasurer	W5MCT
Board Member/Net Control Chairman	Don Simonton	K5LOW
Board Member/Groundwire Editor	Alan Luce	KE5RFR

TARC WEBSITE LINK

www.Tylerarc.org

ARRL WEBSITE LINK

www.arrl.org

LICENSE PRACTICE TEST WEBSITE

www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl

CONTEST WEBSITE LINK

www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

FROM THE EDITOR – ALAN LUCE - KE5RFR



Wow! This 2008-2009 TARC year is just about gone! Seems like a blur. From hurricanes, to Field Day, QSO parties, to the Christmas parade, to Eyes and Ears at the mall, then the Beauty and the Beast Bike Ride. I can say I learned something at each even about my radio equipment and how to use it. That is why I think it is so important to participate in any TARC even if at all possible. You may say,



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“how much more can I learn about a 2 meter radio”? A LOT MORE!!!!

Ever heard of a cross band repeat 2 meter radio? I had no clue about this until Hurricane Gustov and Ike last summer. While working at an evacuee shelter set up at our church in Troup I learned how valuable a cross band repeat 2 meter radio can be used along with an HT. It really frees you up to move around. I did not have one at the time. I do now.

There are also many different kinds of HT accessories. I learned while working the eyes and ears program at the mall the additional mic that worked best for me. I also learned that if you hit the wrong function button on the Yaesu 60R HT and activate the internet option, N9JN will let you know and you will learn how to correct the problem while setting in your truck cab in the mall parking lot reading through the HT manual. Once you get everything set locking in the frequency by holding the #6 button helps a lot also. If you don't lock it in, before the night is out you will be off frequency. Then when you don't check in for a while someone will drive by and tell you “hey dummy, you are off frequency”!!!

As a new Tech you are buying radios and eagerly reading the manuals trying to get your radio programmed so you can check into the TARC Monday night net. You have a call sign now and once you check into a net you feel like you are officially one of them. Plus, you have proved to your spouse that you are a license radio operator (FCC License framed) and you DO know what the heck you are doing. Then the moment comes.....

You key up to check in.....and you didn't set the 147 repeater offset to a minus (-) . Every radio is now set up with the automatic + offset for that frequency. You have spent all afternoon Sunday programming the radio. Now, you have to reconfigure the offset. OMG....the dreaded menu from hell. You finally accomplish the task but while doing so you have saved about 17 more frequencies in the radio memory, ones you will never use. Yes you can delete memory frequencies, back to the manual and the menu.

Then there is that Tone thing. 88.5.....

From experience this past year and a half participating in the TARC volunteer functions I can say that it has made me a better operator. A better prepared operator. Sooner or later the time will come when we are called upon to respond in a real life public service event. I want to make sure I know my 2 meter radio inside and out when I respond. I want to be an asset not a liability.

73 yall'
from the Luce Connection Ranch
Troup, Texas