

The Groundwire

Official Newsletter of the Tyler Amateur Radio Club - October 16, 2017

President's Message



“On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law.
To help other people at all times,
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake and morally straight.”

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is *the largest* Scouting event in the world. The 2016 JOTA had nearly 1.3 million Scout participants from more than 30,000 locations, and signals reached 156 countries.

It is held this year the weekend of October 20th. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, and in our community. This jamboree requires no travel, other than to the BSA offices on 5th street in Tyler.

JOTA is celebrating its 60th anniversary, a tribute to the durability of scouting as well as ham radio. The BSA recognizes the importance of service, a cornerstone of our hobby, and was quick to adopt radio communications in 1918 (eight years after the scouts were formed). Requirements for the 1922 merit badge were:

1. Be able to receive and send Morse code correctly at not less than ten words a minute.
2. Know the correct form for sending a message.
3. Be able to tell in own words the principal laws regarding radio communication.
4. Know at least ten of the radiogram abbreviations. (Q signals)
5. (a) Be able to name two types of detectors and explain how they work. (b) Name five minerals used in detectors in the order of their sensitiveness.

(The first person who gets the correct answer to number five will get a special prize!)

6. Draw a diagram of a simple transmitting set, showing how the following instruments are connected: dynamo or storage battery (source of power), transformer, condenser, spark, gap, helix, key. Explain the function of each.
7. Draw a simple diagram showing how to connect the following instruments: tuning coil or loose coupler, detector, fixed or variable condensers, phones and ground. Tell the use of the above apparatus.
8. Draw a diagram of three different types of aerials and tell their advantages or faults.
9. (a) Know how properly ground a radio set and know what precautions

to take during a thunder shower. (b) Demonstrate how to rescue a person in contact with a live wire, and have knowledge of the method of resuscitation of a person insensible from shock.

10. Write a brief essay on development of wireless telegraphy.

Quite a bit to know, but the future of our country asked for preparedness in any eventuality, including disaster, natural or manmade. While the requirements have changed over the decades (Morse was eliminated from the requirements in 1984) the spirit of community and service remains, and many scouts went on to be avid amateur radio operators.

Tyler Amateur Radio Club is privileged this year to be the host club for the Tyler area BSA. Terry Gimble W5TG will be coordinating the event, and anyone interesting in working with young and inquisitive people are welcome to help set up and manage this year's JOTA.

Operating Rules

- All radio operators must operate their station strictly in accordance with FCC regulations.
- Stations should try to contact each other by calling "CQ Jamboree" or "CQ JOTA" or by answering other stations sending this call.
- Any authorized amateur radio frequency may be used. Starting frequencies are listed [here](#). Once contact is established, you can move to another frequency to leave the calling frequency open for others.

- Any amateur mode of operation can be used such, as CW, SSB, PSK, SSTV, FM, and satellite. The more modes in operation, the more exciting the event will be for the Scouts.
- **JOTA is not a contest.** The idea is to contact other Scout stations and allow as many Scouts as possible to talk to other Scouts and learn about who they are and what they are doing. You might think about counting the Scouts on both sides of the QSO rather than the number of QSOs!

73,

George de KF5WFA

What's Coming This Month

Terry Gimble (W5TG) will give a detailed explanation of his hands-on support to "Luis", a fellow amateur in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of the hurricane that devastated that island nation. What Terry did and what he accomplished serves as a beacon to any amateur of what the first principle of our hobby is all about (FCC regs §97.1). Terry's talk will be the perfect segue into the following.

October's formal presentation will be on emergency communications aka "EmComm". Our speakers will be Mark Taylor (W5MCT) and John Newman (N9JN). Both of these TARC members are deeply involved in [ETECS](#) which is a portal into our area's [ARES](#), [RACES](#) and [SKYWARN](#) activities. They will be available after the meeting to discuss the topic further with those interested in becoming involved in amateur radio's involvement with emergency communications and first responder support. This will be the last formal presentation for 2017.

Looking Ahead ...

Terry Gimble (W5TG) is also going to be the master of ceremonies for the Boy Scout's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) beginning this Friday and continuing through Sunday. This will be held at the Boy Scout headquarters on Fifth Street. This is a great opportunity to reach out to future amateur radio operators. Again, it's about the quality of the contacts, not the quantity.

The November meeting will be our Thanksgiving dinner meeting (details are TBD - "to be announced") and the December meeting will be for fellowship and good will (details also TBD). In 2018 we'll once again host Skywarn classes but the dates are (guess what) TBD. When that is settled, club meeting presentations for 2018 will be announced.

Members' Corner

This space has been added for inputs from the general membership. Op Ed pieces, operating experiences, bragging rights, etc., just about anything a member might want to share with the rest of us could go here. Submittals are to be addressed to [The Groundwire](#) and be in plain text or MS Word "doc" or "docx" format. FYI - The TARC Board will consider whether or not buy/sell ads will be permitted on the club's websight. Film at 11.

Kudos

Several Kudos this month for the splendid work on and support to the club's participation in the Texas QSO event. There were sixteen participants who gathered at the Tehan building at Camp Tyler:

- George Plotkin (KF5WFA); Rachel Plotkin (KF5WLC); Elaine

Jackson (KF5CNN); Tom Turner (KG5BWP); John Arnold (W5CUD); Butch Adair (WA5SLG); Alan Luce (K5RFR); Lyle Mains (K5LCM); Bill Huston (W5ZK); Joe Hendrickson (W5LOI); Frank Reagan(W5BBB); Josh Kaufman (KE5FGC); Terry Gimble (W5TG); Art Sharp (K5LXK); and visitors Karen Youngblood and Hank Hardesty.

- The Friday "antenna party" was ably handled by Frank, Josh, Terry, George, Art, Butch and Bill. (Note: Helping out in activities like this is a good way to "put an oar in the water".)
- Josh provided the computers for logging.
- Elaine served as "Grubmaster" for the event with able assistance from Rachel.

Kudos also go to those that supported the NOAA booth at the East Texas State Fair:

- Gene Coldwell (WA5CTQ); Joe Lisbony (WB5SDV); Terry Gimble (W5TG).

Reminders

- Club Dues - The club's fiscal year runs from June 1st through May 31st. Membership renewals for the 2017-2018 fiscal year are now past due. Full annual membership is \$25.00 and additional family members are \$12.50.

- VE Testing - Testing for new and upgraded amateur radio licenses

is conducted by local area VEs on the **second Sunday of each month** at 2:00 PM at the American Red Cross building located at 320 East

Rieck Road in Tyler. Any schedule changes will be announced on the club's Monday night two meter net. Butch Adair (WA5SLG) is the contact for VE testing information. You can e-mail him or call him at 903-561-6099. Butch reports that the October 8th testing opportunity had the following results:

- New Licensees
 - Wendy McKnight KG5VID Technician
 - Raymond Gruetzner KG5VIC General
- Upgrades
 - Archie Kopecki KG5SRD Extra
 - Edward Lisbony WB5SDV Extra

Congratulations to these new/upgraded amateurs!

- TARC Website - Other important events are on the Club's website [here](#). It's also the place for lots of information about us: Who we are, what we do, will do and have done as well as a bunch of useful links. Put a note on your calendar to visit it often.

Closing Notes

There were 50 attendees at our September meeting. In my 8+ years as a member, that was an unprecedented count. There are several reasons for this, I'm sure, including the general continued growth in licensees in the U.S. That growth notwithstanding, it seems a clear signal to me that what's been accomplished since June, both at meetings and with outside activities, has struck a responsive chord.

That said, the path to continued progress rests on all our shoulders -

not just those of our able leadership. They've shown us the way but we have to make the effort and take the necessary steps. Now is the time and a perfect opportunity for each of us to examine our commitment to TARC and what we each can "bring to the table" to foster its continued success. I can personally attest that involvement in club activities - over and above mere attendance - is both rewarding and instructive.

73 for now,

Bob Jackson - AG5X

Editor