



# The Groundwire

The official Newsletter of the Tyler Amateur Radio Club



## Tyler Amateur Radio Club



January 2020

Volume 2020-01

**H**owdy fellow Tyler ARC radio operators. It's been a while since the club has published a newsletter and distributed to the membership and as courtesy copies to other clubs around Texas and other states. It was my plan to put out a newsletter much sooner, but due to health issues, I just didn't feel like sitting down to write one until I got to feeling better. Sitting at my desk for any length of time takes its toll on my back and the pain becomes unbearable at times. Now, I am doing a little better and making my first effort to put something out since I committed to doing so a couple of months ago. It is my hope you find this newsletter enjoyable in addition to future editions that will be sent to you via email on a monthly basis.

Readers are encouraged to submit materials for publication in the newsletter. So please, don't be shy about submitting something. - **John Armstrong – KG5LWD.**

## What Happened to Elmering?

By

**John Armstrong - KG5LWD**

**B**ack in the early 1970s when I first got my Amateur Radio license, there seemed to be an abundance of Elmers willing to help newbies out while learning the ropes of Ham Radio. My good friend at the time was a radio engineer for KHEY 690 AM in El Paso named Charlie Schlieper. Not only was he a very good friend, but an excellent mentor who provided encouragement to dig deeper into what I learned. Charlie was a great Elmer who helped me get my ham license and First Class ticket for commercial radio. When he left El Paso for other endeavors elsewhere in Texas, I lost touch with him over



the years and was deeply saddened to hear he became a silent key a few years go from a heart attack.

As I recall from many years ago, it was around 1983 I remembered both licenses needed to be renewed. I ignored that thought since I was no longer involved in radio except for listening to it while driving down the highway in my car. I let both licenses expire and never renewed them since my vocation was in the energy industry. That was a big mistake that I discovered 40 years later on in life as I decided to take up Ham Radio again in my retirement years.

Now I pine for the friendship I once had in having Charlie as my Elmer who helped me understand radio and electronics better. His absence today makes me now wonder what ever happened to Elmering in Amateur Radio. It seems to have died out and no one is interested in helping out newbies become proficient in using their radios. Are radio operators nowadays more interested in who has the tallest antenna, the most powerful amp or how much can an old broken down piece of radio gear can be pawned off on to the unsuspecting newbie? What ever happened with the practice of Elmering in Ham Radio?

Then in 2016 I got the radio bug again after a friend with the Tyler ARC invited me to a meeting. Soon after attending that meeting, I got re-energized to pick up the hobby once again. However, since my license had expired long ago I was tasked with having to study for my Technicians license and eventually my General. It was no big deal studying for these exams since the code requirement was no longer applicable. After studying the AARL manuals for a while, I passed both exams without any difficulty.

But, I realized there was something missing when I took the exams. I realized anyone could memorize answers to questions, but to fully grasp the reasons for those questions was lacking. Why? It's because an Elmer wasn't there to help clarify questions or to demonstrate how things work. Again, I wished for my old friend Charlie who always took time to answer questions and show me how things worked in radio. He was such a kind hearted and patient fellow who gladly passed on his knowledge.

After passing my Technicians and General license exams, I went out and purchased a Baofeng HT radio to get me started on 2 meter. But, I soon found 2 meter was not my cup of tea and I wanted more out of my Ham Radio experience than talking with folks locally. I wanted to

reach out to folks all around the world; to make new friends and acquaintances. So, I saved my nickles, dimes and quarters and purchased a basic Icom IC-718 transceiver and G5RV antenna. This setup got me started, but I soon discovered that my antenna was the limiting factor to reaching out around the world. Some folks will swear by a G5RV and feel it is an excellent antenna. As for me, I have a hard time getting across the street with a good signal using that hunk of wire. It's in instances such as this an Elmer would help decide which is the best antenna to get and that's something I was definitely missing. Also, having someone to help set things up would have been nice. Instead, it was learning by the seat of my pants and not knowing if I made a mistake. However, that's what learning is all about. Elmers just make life a little simpler learning amateur radio. One can draw upon the mistakes Elmers made in the past.

As part of trying to learn more, I joined a couple of radio clubs. I found a mixture of club members who knew a lot about Ham Radio and those who didn't know diddly squat except for turning on the radio. For those who knew radio and you asked them a question, you would usually get an answer. Sometimes, they wouldn't know and would refer you to another club member to get the answer to the question being asked. However, many times the memberships of clubs can be clickish and this makes it difficult to fit in and even more difficult to ask questions. This goes against the grain of what use to be done in years past with ham clubs where there is a group of people openly willing to share their knowledge and expertise to help a newbie along. Ideally, this should still be the modus operandi of radio clubs to reach out and help someone new to the hobby and help them expand their horizons rather than be stuck in a 2 meter world learning little if nothing (IMHO). Cq, Cq, Cq Charlie.

## AK5TX's take on Elmering

**P**at Brown (AK5TX), a member of Tyler ARC, has taken the bull by the horns to be a mentor/Elmer for young aspiring radio operators. Here is a story, in his own words, about his efforts to get students involved in amateur radio.

The Friends of the Tyler Public Library and TARC have provided the support and resources for teaching and instructing Ham Radio Classes – Technician Class at no charge to my students. Of the various 28 attendees, 7 so far were motivated and passed their FCC Technician and/or General Class License tests. Never prouder of my students! With these successes, our library has “compelled” me to continue, which I graciously accept. From February to May 2020, we will again be conducting Technician Class training and instruction.

My focus is including school-age students for STEM/STEAM Education (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) via Ham Radio. My goal is simple: 7 x 7 = 27 or 7 Million Licensed Operators in 7 Years by 2027! After my first coursework sessions, public and private schools and other organizations desire to learn more. This goal may be accomplished and achieved providing the “Tipping Point” for our art, hobby, craft, and science to protect our frequency spectrums, applications of existing and new technologies, and gain the significant political voice needed to advocate for Amateur Radio. Hiram Percy Maxim realized this a century ago and now it is our time this 21<sup>st</sup> century to wave our banner and plant our flag! I intend to plant a flag on the MOON!

My passion is rocketry and Project LEON-Shoot Stuff Into Space Cheaply! is my satellite launching technology. I just returned from NASA in Florida but I LIKE TEXAS, y'all and this Yankee desires to see LEON in Texas! This includes the generous ability to launch ARRL AMSATS and deliver the World Wide Wireless Web of us all. I cannot do it alone!

Not many know that Extra Class Operators can launch and our technology is non-polluting so no environmental impact studies needed. I have been given a tentative, “GO for LEON!” by the FAA and so excited. It was suggested I begin a companion rocket club and have taken this under advisement for now.

I reviewed the latest QST and ARRL CEO Michel comments about DARE TO IMAGINE! Me too, so I share my passion but acknowledge I cannot do it all alone and ask your help! With perfect vision 2020 will be our greatest year of membership, training, unity in purpose, and fun with our hobby!

As a Disability Advocate with vision and hearing losses, I am gleaning applications to do the work more effectively. The Tyler Innovation Pipeline wants to help me get the message out by creating training videos with a focus on the “vulnerable community” so no one is neglected and left behind as in Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. Homeland Security has informed me of the clear and present dangers such as the Boston Marathon Bombings and subsequent heroic actions by the Hams on station. This dictates the need for an expanded trained pool of communication personnel. I take this responsibility seriously yet enjoy the fun and camaraderie of all our hams and extend a hearty request for Elmers to help me along the way!

## How Did You Get Into Ham Radio?

By  
John Armstrong – KG5LWD

**F**or most of us, what I am about to say may not come as a surprise. Often times, I am asked “what got me started in ham radio” by curious folks who don't know anything about the topic. Like many others, there was an Elmer or neighbor who had a tall tower sitting in his back yard with all sorts of antennas connected to it or a neat looking radio in the shack that really piqued interest. Listening to short wave radio from distant lands always seems to attract a lot of interest in young folks.



As for me, I think listening to my dad's old Zenith Transoceanic Radio is what got me started as a young child and then later on in life, a friend who turned out to be my Elmer, finally got the ball rolling in earning my amateur radio license.

My dad wasn't an amateur radio operator, but he did enjoy listening to broadcasts from around the world. He would switch from listing to Medium Wave Broadcasts to Shortwave Broadcasts which seemed to be popular during the 1950s and early 1960s.

Often times I would turn to a frequency where there was a rapid barrage chirps that seemed endless. It was some sort of code that I still

not not understand to this day of what was going on. But, I do know no one could key Morse Code that fast....not even Superman.

Then in the 1970s, I became involved with Citizens Band Radio. At first I thought this type of radio was slicker than sliced bread since I could easily mount a radio in my car, stick on an antenna and be in business talking on the radio. Licenses for CB were required back then, but no one used them. It was a free for all rumble to get on the airwaves that seemed to be mainly occupied by foul mouth folks who used every four letter word in the book to carry on conversations.

I soon discovered CB was only good for one thing; traveling on the highway and to find out where “smokey” or “Kojak with a Kodak” was hiding to issue “green stamps” to unsuspecting motorists for speeding. Those were acronyms made famous by the Country Western singer C.W. McCall in his song “Convoy”; a song about truckers using CB radio and the terminology of the day such as “riding in the cocking chair”, “Good Buddy”, “Breaker, Breaker, anyone got a copy on 1-9”, and “got your ears on?”, you’re “wall to wall and treetop tall” to mention just a few.

Today on amateur radio, if I were to use that terminology on the air, folks would come unglued since we try to keep things civil and legal through self policing; something non-existent in the CB world for the most part. And if I were to sign on amateur radio using a handle such as “Bubba”, “Papa Bear” or “Mr. T”, I guarantee there would be hams out there laying in wait for me to sign on the next time to find out who the moron is so he could be reported to the FCC. That ain’t for me “good buddy, that’s for sure for sure Rubber Ducky”.

However, it wasn’t too long after the CB craze hit that I met a friend who was an engineer at a local radio station and he planted the ham radio bug into me and I eventually earned my amateur radio license and First Class Commercial ticket. It was at this time I started to listen the scanners in the news room of the radio station where I worked. This was way before “**Al Gore**” invented (tongue in cheek) the internet where streaming audio was not available. I could listen to the police, fire and government radio and found it interesting. Each agency seemed to have its own unique lingo.

But, if you were to ask me today what I like best about amateur radio, it’s listening to some of the old timers ragchew. It’s a place where there are some really great conversations taking place, it’s also a good place to learn about the technical issues radio operators encounter.

However, there will always be those unsavory people lurking around on the various bands who are nothing more than poor ambassadors of amateur radio where there is foul language being used and no one seems to mind or report. These are the Good Buddies of amateur radio and should be relegated to the 11 meter band. It is during these instances where I choose to not feed the animals by visiting the animal farm and go elsewhere on other bands. That’s a big 10-4 y’all.

## **REGIONAL CLUBS**

**Click on underscored name to visit site.**

[Nacogdoches](http://w5nac.com/) http://w5nac.com/  
[Athens](http://www.athensarc.org/) http://www.athensarc.org/  
[Cedar Creek](https://k5ccl.wordpress.com/) https://k5ccl.wordpress.com/  
[Marshall](http://marclub.net/) http://marclub.net/  
[Minden](http://www.n5rd.org/) http://www.n5rd.org/  
[Shreveport \(ARCOS\)](http://www.qsl.net/nwlarn/arcos.htm) http://www.qsl.net/nwlarn/arcos.htm

[Shreveport \(SARA\)](http://www.k5sar.com/) http://www.k5sar.com/  
[Rusk County \(Henderson\)](http://www.ruskcountyarc.com/) http://www.ruskcountyarc.com/  
Four States (Texarkana) http://www.4444sarc.org/  
[Palestine-Anderson County](http://www.pacarc.org/) http://www.pacarc.org/  
[Navarro, Freestone, Limestone and Leon County](http://www.nflarc.com/)  
http://www.nflarc.com/  
Panola County (no website)  
LeTourneau University – LUARC (no website)

## **Other Ham Clubs**

**Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club, Fond du Lac, WI**  
<https://www.fdlhams.com/>

## **The Rare Ones Of New Orleans**

**D**o a little rag chewing with a group of really nice fellows living in and around the Big Easy on 40 Meters – 7.275 Mhz (+/- 5 khz) – Most Evenings About 1930-2130 CST. **The actual operating frequency for the evening will be posted on NetLogger.**  
**Many times also on 7.260 Mhz.**

<https://therareonesofneworleans.loga.us/>.

**Download Netlogger**  
[www.netlogger.org](http://www.netlogger.org)

NetLogger Setup Instructions

The “Rare Ones” of New Orleans utilize NetLogger during their Round Table QSO’s. For your convenience, I have included the following directions to get you started.

- Using your Web Browser, go to [www.netlogger.org](http://www.netlogger.org)
- Select Download
- Select your version based on your Computer Operating System
- Enter your Callsign and Email Address
- Click “Download”
- Once the NetLogger program is downloaded, install it on your computer.

Open NetLogger

Click on the blue “Select Net” button and look for the Net you want on the dropdown box, and select it.\

Use the “View Monitors” and the “Aim Window” buttons to view and communicate with others using NetLogger.

Additional program information is available from the “Help” utility within the program by selecting “Help” from the top menu.

“The “Rare Ones” of New Orleans was resurrected on February 22, 2017 after much deliberation and thought by nine (9) amateur radio operators in the Greater New Orleans Area. The purpose of the group is to promote the amateur radio HF Communications, the City of New Orleans, and the Audubon Zoo.

The original “Rare Ones” of New Orleans was established in 1965. The current “Rare Ones” are the third generation of this fine group, and are excited to promote our wonderful City’s unique culture, history and fine traditions. To learn about the History of the “Rare Ones” please click on the following link: [History of the “Rare Ones”](#)



The “Rare Ones” of New Orleans also promotes the Audubon Nature Institute. To

show our appreciation for the Zoo, each member of the “Rare Ones” has adopted an animal figure to represent a personal connection with the Audubon Zoo. Of course, if you’ve been to the Zoo, they all asked for you! Well, the “Rare Ones” all ask for you to check in with us on the air waves!

One of the goals in resurrecting the “Rare Ones” of New Orleans is to provide a place where displaced New Orleanians could “pull up a chair” and chat with someone back home. Sharing childhood stories and memories with our displaced friends and family brings a great satisfaction to the “Rare Ones”.

The “Rare Ones” of New Orleans love to tell the story of the City of New Orleans to new comers as well as displaced former New Orleanians. By all means, don’t be a stranger and come by for a spicy taste of New Orleans!”

### [Useful Links](#)

**Radio Tools and Utilities for amateur radio operators**  
<http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/Utilities/>

**eham.net – Product Reviews**  
<http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/41>

**Android Apps – Tools**  
<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=ham%20radio%20tools&c=apps>

**ARRL**  
<http://www.arrl.org/>

### [Freedom Link](#)

This is a group of amateur radio operators offering expanded communications during inclement weather coordinating with NWS SKYWARN for advanced weather notification to our communities. This service is provided for use to amateur radio operators of the Four States Area: NE Texas, SW Arkansas, NW Louisiana and SE Oklahoma.

<http://www.freedom-link.org/>

### [Testing – Get Upgraded](#)

#### **License Exams**

Amateur Radio License examination sessions are held each second Sunday, at 2:00pm at the Red Cross center on Rieck Road in Tyler. The

exam cost is \$14 – Cash only. Exams are open to anyone who wishes to take one, you do not have to be a club member

The exams are administered by the Tyler VE team. This is not a sponsored activity of the Tyler ARC. [Contact us](#) for further information.

If you are studying to upgrade or for your first license and are struggling with part of the theory, contact us for support to get you past the hurdle.

#### **People obtaining their first license or upgrading in 2019 at the Tyler Texas Test Sessions**

##### **Obtained Technician**

- KI5DHL Roland A. Brawner
- KI5DQO Jeremiah C. Puren
- KI5EGW Lowell P. Main
- KI5FZH Henok Bekele
- KI5FZI Justin R. Wright
- KI5HDA William R. Davis II
- KI5HDB Andrew H. Golub
- KI5HDC James M. McCloud
- KI5HPF Matthew T. Burton
- KI5HLV Debasish Dasgupta

##### **Upgraded to General**

- K5AMJ Andrew Martinez Jr.
- KE5DTF Stephen M Lowe
- KI5EGE Rudy J. Martinez
- KI5HLV Debasish Dasgupta

##### **Upgraded to Extra**

- AD5R Raymond A. Gruetzner
- WA5SVY Craig T. Hughes

### [Nets](#)

**TARC Two Meter:** Monday night, 8:00 PM

K5TYR 146.960 Mhz Repeater (136.5 Hz CTCSS tone, -600k offset )

K5TYR 147.000 MHz Repeater, 136.5 Hz CTCSS tone, -600k offset

K5TYR 444.400 MHz Repeater, 136.5 Hz CTCSS tone, +5M offset

**Smith County Ten Meter:** Sunday night, 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz (+/- 5 kHz as needed.)

**ETECS Two Meter:** last Monday of month, 7:00 PM, W5ETX Repeater System

**Two Meter Texas D-Star:** Tuesday night, 8:00 PM, 147.120 Repeater and Reflector 4B. Statewide.

# TYLER ARC CALENDAR

## January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 <b>Shop Night</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm	3	4
5 <b>Smith County Ten Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	6 <b>Two Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	7	8	9 <b>Tech Net</b> 146.96 repeater 7:00pm – 8:00pm	10	11
12 <b>W5YI Exam Session</b> Red Cross Building on Rieck Rd 2:00pm – 3:00 PM  <b>Smith County Ten Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	13 <b>Two Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	14	15	16 <b>Tyler ARC Meeting</b> 7:00pm - 8:30pm	17	18
19 <b>Smith County Ten Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	20 <b>Two Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	21	22	23 <b>Tech Net</b> 146.96 repeater 7:00pm – 8:00pm	24	25 <b>Ham 'n' Eggs</b> Happy's Fish House 7:30am – 8:30am
26 <b>Smith County Ten Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	27 <b>Two Meter Net</b> 8:00pm – 9:00pm	28	29	30	31	

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FOR THE TYLER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

I hereby apply for membership / renewal in the Tyler Amateur Radio Club. Single full membership: \$25.00, additional family members \$12.50 each. Single associate membership: \$25.00, additional family members \$12.50 each. Please print or type all information clearly. Dues are prorated by quarter for new members starting with June 1st. (June-Aug \$25.00, Sept-Nov \$20.00, Dec- Feb \$15.00, Mar-May \$7.50)

See club by-laws for definition of club membership.

Mail to:  
Tyler Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6393  
Tyler, Texas 75711

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Class of License (if licensed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Member (s):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Class of License (if licensed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Class of License (if licensed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Class of License (if licensed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member of ARRL? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Check what areas of amateur radio you are interested in:

VHF/UHF \_\_\_ HF \_\_\_ Packet \_\_\_ Satellite \_\_\_ SSTV \_\_\_ CW \_\_\_  
Emergency Communications \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently receive the GroundWire newsletter via e-mail? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If not, would like you like to be added to the mailing list?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Please star (\*) any information that you do not want published in the club directory distributed to club members.