

Texas Adventist Emergency Communications Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4

Hi. T.A.E.C. club members

We have had a fast month and lots of actives. On April 20 to 23, we had pathfinder camporee with 1500 present. We all had a good time and a very enjoyable weekend by all that was there. On May 7 we did graduation at SWAU, we had the biggest crowd they have ever had and everything went real well.

Upcoming event will be Keene rally June 2 & 3, and Austin on June 10 then on July 4 will have Keene parade. We will be discussing Field day at our club meeting on May 21, so we will need everyone there for this discussion on field day.

See you at cub meeting,
Gerald Mohr KC5PWQ
TAEC President

*** * * Reminders * * ***

- Don't forget!! All Amateur radio operators must sign up with the ULS before any changes can be made to your license, upgrades, and renewals. You can sign up online at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>
- I'm looking for articles that can be put into the newsletters. The monthly newsletter will be mailed out on the Monday preceding the monthly meeting, so please email any articles to me no later than the five days prior to when the newsletter is sent out.
- The next club meeting is on May 21st
- The June Newsletter Deadline is June 11th
- If you would like information about the license restructuring, goto <http://taec.cjb.net> and click on "What's New"

Secretary's Report April 16, 2000

Meeting called to order:

The meeting was called to order by President Gerald Mohr (KC5PWQ), with 24 members present and 3 guests. March

minutes were read. Ray (KD5DON) motioned to accept, Curtis (KC5PWP) seconded, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The club has \$223.53 in funds available for use. Curtis (KC5PWP) motioned to accept as read, Howard (KC5ORL) seconded, motion carried.

New Business:

Van presented the club with the details for the Camporee. Maps were passed out for the area. There are 1500 people expected to show up for the event. Park rules were discussed. Volunteers for the event are Joe Watts, Ray and Jean Alway, Curtis and Gerald Mohr, Carl and Ben Wescott, Tony Cash, Nathan Seery, Jeremy Short, Charlene McLean, Rob Williams, Desmond Freeman, and Howard Campbell. Individuals already connected with pathfinders are to stay with their groups. Numbers will be assigned to volunteers for check in purposes.

Rob Williams proposed that the club help with parking at graduation. The security shirts will be worn for the event. Curtis (KC5PWP) motioned to help and Tony (KD5HWK) seconded, the motion carried.

Curtis (KD5PWP) gave a brief discussion of nets.

The club website is <http://taec.cjb.net>

Please be sure to sign up on the ULS at <http://www.fccgov/wtb/uls/> Your license cannot be upgraded until you have registered on this site. You have until the end of the year to comply.

The club is now ARRL affiliated. ARRL membership can be renewed or started through the club. New memberships will bring \$5 to the club and renewals will bring \$2.

Old Business:

The Weslaco rally was discussed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Jean (KD5DOM) and seconded by Howard (KC5ORL). Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

CONNECTICUT CLUB REACTIVATES W1FB CALL SIGN

If you hear the well-known W1FB call sign on the air, it's likely *not* a bootlegger. Recent renewed interest in the Tuna Tin 2 QRP transmitter--made famous by the late Doug DeMaw, W1FB--led a Connecticut group to obtain the call sign as a memorial to DeMaw, a former ARRL HQ staff member and Amateur Radio icon.

DeMaw, who died in September of 1997, was one of the most widely published technical writers in Amateur Radio. An electrical engineer, he was a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff for 18 years--from 1965 to 1983. During his tenure at HQ, DeMaw served as editor of *The ARRL Handbook* and engineered the shift in emphasis toward solid-state design in the *Handbook* and in *QST*. In addition, he authored hundreds of articles in *QST* and other publications.

The original Tuna Tin 2, built by DeMaw, was featured on the cover of the May 1976 *QST*. The little transmitter, subsequently thought to have been lost, was relocated several years ago in the flea market at the New England Division Convention in Boxboro, Massachusetts. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, spotted the little rig, recognized it as the original, and bought it at a "good flea market price." The rig was subsequently checked out and placed back on the air as part of the "Tuna Tin 2 Revival" last spring and summer and during the "QRP ARCI/ARRL W1AW Black Cat Operating Event" last Halloween.

Still, something seemed missing. Several ARRL staffers thought it would be an appropriate gesture and a fitting memorial to DeMaw to put the Tuna Tin 2 on the air with his W1FB call sign. The Central Connecticut QRP Club was formed, and--with the permission of Doug DeMaw's family--requested W1FB as the club's call sign. The FCC granted the call sign effective January 25, 2000.

An inaugural operating event from Newington on February 26, 2000, was very well received by the QRP community. Hundreds of two-way QRP contacts were made, including several TT2-to-TT2 exchanges. DeMaw's son, Dave--a Central Connecticut QRP Club charter member who now holds his father's former W1CER call sign--got to make the first contact using the famous W1FB.

The Central Connecticut QRP Club plans to mount additional operating events including one being described as "innovative" and set for this fall. QRPers and Doug DeMaw

fans also can look for W1FB--and the original Tuna Tin 2--to show up on the air for various QRP operating events. Operation is expected to take place from several locations across the US, so QRPers in parts of the country well-removed from Connecticut should have an opportunity to work W1FB.--Wayne Irwin, W1KI

--Excerpt from the ARRL Letter, Volume 19, Number 17

PRESIDENT HAYNIE PROPOSES "THE BIG PROJECT"

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, thinks Amateur Radio is on a roll right now, and he wants to harness some of that momentum to keep the hobby on the crest of the wave in years to come. Enter "*The Big Project*."

The Big Project--as it's being called for now--is a corporate-education partnership that Haynie views as nothing less than a bold investment in the future of Amateur Radio.

"Our school initiative would put Amateur Radio in the middle schools," Haynie explained today during a visit to ARRL HQ. "We're in the process of developing the framework for this at the moment."

The project, now in its early stages and under the guidance of ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P, initially would attempt to raise \$1 million in corporate and foundation contributions. The idea would be to not only develop a turnkey Amateur Radio curriculum but to provide equipment to bring it to life in the classroom.

The ARRL Board of Directors will hear a progress report on The Big Project when it next reconvenes for its July meeting.

Haynie said the League does not want to reinvent the wheel. The Big Project hopes to borrow from the best of what's already in place in terms of programs that integrate Amateur Radio into the curriculum. As he sees it, Amateur Radio could play a role in helping to enhance knowledge of geography, math, electricity and electronics, and physics.

"We've consulted with a lot of teachers throughout the United States to help us with the curriculum," he said. The initial pilot project could involve from 300 to 600 middle schools across the US. "It's time to do some bold things," Haynie declared.

Haynie does not expect The Big Project to immediately generate huge numbers of new licensees. He likened the concept to contributing to a retirement plan. "This is long-term," he said. "This is not instant gratification. This is an investment in the future of Amateur Radio."

During his visit to HQ, Haynie said he thinks license restructuring has brightened the overall mood of the Amateur Radio community. "What I see in my travels throughout the country is a resurgence--a revival if you will--of excitement in Amateur Radio, and this is good," he said. "This is something we've needed for a long time."

As Haynie sees it, bringing The Big Project to fruition will continue to fuel the optimism that pervades the hobby. He says the League would be derelict if it did not take advantage of the opportunities The Big Project presents.

"Amateur Radio is on a roll right now," he said. "We want to stay on this roll of success."

GPS SELECTIVE AVAILABILITY IS HISTORY

As of the first of the month, your GPS receiver became a whole lot more accurate. President Clinton ordered GPS selective availability terminated as of midnight on May 1.

Eric Lemmon, WB6FLY, called the action "a *huge* benefit to hams who are into APRS, because the SA error will no longer hamper its accuracy." Selective Availability was an error introduced for national security purposes. It prevented GPS from being as accurate as it could have been for civilian users. With SA turned off, accuracy is expected to be as much as 10 times better.

Harry Pyle, AB7TB, charted the error at the changeover. His data show the GPS error--typically in the 100 to 200 foot range--dramatically dropping to something on the order of from 10 to 20 feet when SA was turned off.

Chuck Heron, KD7BWG, suggests one area of caution. "Most topographic maps used in the United States are in NAD27 CONUS datum. Some of the newer mapping programs available for APRS and computer usage are in WGS 84 datum," he points out. Before attempting to use GPS for some coordinated activity, such as during a disaster response, Heron recommends putting all GPS units on the same map datum (this is typically done via a navigation setup screen on the GPS

unit). This will put all users on the same page, so to speak, when using GPS coordinates in conjunction with hard-copy or CD-ROM maps.

More information on the elimination of SA is at:

<http://www.igeb.gov>.--thanks to Eric Lemmon, WB6FLY; Chuck Heron, KD7BWG; and Harry Pyle, AB7TB

*** * * Mark your calendars for swapfest/Events * * *** **2000**

May 21	TAEC May Meeting; 10:00 a.m. @ resource depot North of Keene on FM 2280
June 2-3	Keene Camp Meeting
June 9-10	Austin Spanish Campmeeting
June 9-10	Ham-Com 2000
June 12	June Newsletter Deadline
June 18	TAEC June Meeting; 10:00 a.m. @ resource depot North of Keene on FM 2280
July 4	Forth of July Parade
Jul 28-29	Austin Summerfest
Oct 7	Belton Ham Expo. For info goto http://www.tarc.org

Important Web Sites

TAEC Web site
<http://taec.cjb.net>

The KC5PWQ Web Site
<http://vip.hpnc.com/~geraldm/>

The KC5PWP Web Site
<Http://kc5pwp2.cjb.net/>

Official Austin Ham Home on the web (ARO & AARC)
<http://www.repeater.org>

ARES information can be found at:
<http://www.sss.org/~ares> (soon to be www.TCARES.org)

Newsline, PO Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066
The webpage address is:
<http://www.arnewsline.org>
The e-mail address is:

newsline@ix.netcom.com

The Texas VHF-FM Society
<http://www.txvhffm.org>

Take practice ham tests on the web. A few locations are:
<http://www.hamtest.com>

FCC's Universal License System
<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>