



**February Newsletter (r)**  
**2020**

KCARC Meeting  
Monday, February 10, 2020, 7 PM  
Cobb Rec Center  
2302 State St.

WEEKLY NET TIME  
Thursday, 8 PM on 146.76 repeater  
(146.2 Hz tone)  
Club Website:  
<https://keycityarc.org/>

**2020 Officers:**

Allen Brooks, KF5SPQ, President,  
Lynn Bailey, K5AVJ, Vice President,  
Jacob Bachmeyer, KE5WHG, Secretary,  
Peg Richard, KA4UPA Treasurer

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**The Prez Sez ...CQ CQ CQ...**

It will shortly be time once again for our monthly meeting. At our last month's meeting we discussed the ARRL Special Service Club and John Dyer, AE5B, who is the West Texas Special Service Coordinator, gave everyone a lot of great information about what a Special Service Club is and does. He also reminded everyone that our club was a Special Service Club several years ago.

Several people are interested in becoming an ARRL SSC once again. It will greatly benefit the club and help it to grow and be better recognized in the community. To be an ARRL Special Service Club (SSC) there is an application that has to be filled out and then go through the necessary "channels" before finally being recognized at an SSC.

As the Club President I have begun putting information together for the packet. I will try to have it finished before our meeting and then present it to the club for any necessary revisions before submission.

We have had a mild Winter so far but Spring is still a bit away, despite the Groundhog (What's His Name!) supposedly not seeing his shadow. Weather can and will change rapidly so I encourage everyone to be safe and keep your radio tuned just in case there is an extreme weather situation and always be prepared!

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting. Until then, "73's everyone!"

Thanks!

Allen Brooks, KF5SPQ

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**Pegged by Peg ...**

Reminder that 2020 dues are payable at \$20.00 per family, all living at one address, or \$15.00 per individual for the year.

Peg Richard, KA4UPA

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**UpcomingHamfests:**

**03/07/2020 - Irving Amateur Radio Hamfest**

**Location:** Irving, TX  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Irving amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
**Website:** <http://irvingarc.org/>

**03/14/2020 - HamEXPO Spring 2020**

**Location:** Belton, TX  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Temple Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <https://www.tarc.org/>

**03/21/2020 - St Patrick's Day Hamfest, ARRL West Texas Section Convention**

**Location:** Midland, TX  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Midland Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>

May 15-17 – Dayton, OH Hamvention  
<https://hamvention.org/>

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**CONTESTS:**

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

**January 2020**

- 1** [Straight Key Night](#)
- 4** [Kids Day](#)
- 4-5** [RTTY Roundup](#)
- 18-20** [January VHF](#)

**February 2020**

- 10-14** [School Club Roundup](#)
- 15-16** [International DX – CW](#)

**March 2020**

- 7-8** [International DX– Phone](#)

**April 2020**

- 19** [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

**June 2020**

- 13-15** [June VHF](#)
- 20** [Kids Day](#)
- 27-28** [Field Day](#)

For a more extensive Ham Radio Contest Calendar, check this website:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

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**EXAM SESSION**

**Sponsor:** Key City ARC  
**Date:** March 7, 2020 (Saturday)  
**Time:** 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** Peggy Richard  
(325) 672-8889  
**Email:** [ka4upa@suddenlink.net](mailto:ka4upa@suddenlink.net)  
**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)  
**Location:** Berry Lane Baptist Church  
1515 Lakeside Drive  
Abilene TX 79602-4123

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**QRZ.com Biography: KE5GGY**

I hear KE5GGY most evenings on 3916 Khz with the Rag Chew Crew, Tailgaters and Freewheelers Nets. He does two segments that I find very interesting, Trivia at 9 pm, and The Wayback Machine shortly after 10 pm. Here's his bio on QRZ.com:



Hi! I'm Pete AKA KE5GGY. I love ham radio and get on the air as much as I can.

Nights, weekends and other times, I'm heatin' up the airwaves from the KE5GGY base station high atop Stone Mountain just north of Dallas, Texas. My main rig is an Icom 7300, Heathkit SB 220 Amp, W2IHY Audio Processing and a Heil Pr-40 Mike. Antenna: 80 meter Caged Dipole.

I'm blessed in that I get to work in broadcasting, media and marketing every day. I lead the team at McQ Media, a full service advertising and marketing firm in Dallas, Texas. ([www.mcqmedia.us](http://www.mcqmedia.us)) Prior to launching McQ Media, I worked in radio as a general manager (KWRD, KSKY - Dallas) and as a programmer and air personality (KDWB & WLOL Minneapolis, B94 Pittsburgh, KAFM, Y95 Dallas).

At night, you can find me on 3.916 from 7-10 PM (Central). The Rag Chew Crew, Tailgaters & Freewheelers Nets are friendly

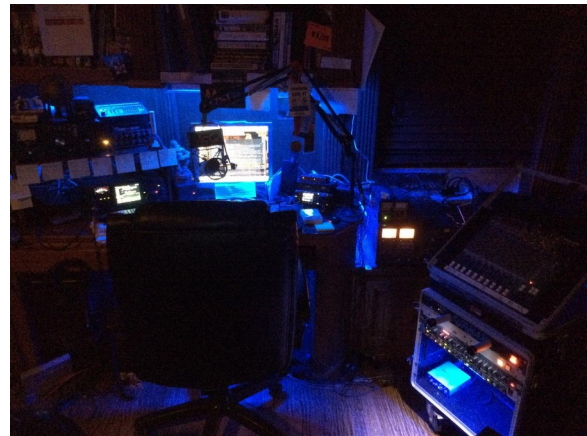
groups that always WELCOME NEW HAMS. Check out our website at <http://www.3916nets.com>. Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3916nets/>

Check out my amateur radio blog at [www.voiceofhamradio.com](http://www.voiceofhamradio.com) and my personal blog at <http://www.pwthomson.com>

73!!!

Pete

Ham shack at night -



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Would you like to put your communication skills to use for public service or disaster? **Amateur Radio Emergency Services** wants and needs you! It doesn't matter whether you are a Technician, General, or Extra. There is a place for you.

The ARES Net is on Tuesday night at 8 pm on the 146.76 MHz repeater.

There is a group that meets the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 – 12:00 noon at the Abilene Public Library conference room in the Mall.

For more information contact Allen Brooks, KF5SPQ, Taylor County Emergency Coordinator at (325) 701-4683.

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**FROM WEST TEXAS SECTION  
MANAGER - W5WI**

**Proposed HF Band Plan**

February 5, 2020

Folks,

The ARRL has sent out the information below about reallocating the HF Band Plan. Please read their proposal and comment accordingly. If you want to learn my personal feelings and concerns, email me at [w5wi@arrl.org](mailto:w5wi@arrl.org).

**ARRL HF Band Planning Committee Seeks Comments on Recommendations**

02/05/2020

The ARRL HF Band Planning Committee is seeking comments and suggestions from the Amateur Radio community on its report to the ARRL Board. At the Board's January meeting, the committee presented its specific recommendations in graphical form for each HF band and each US license class, with the goal of increasing harmony on the HF bands, particularly between CW and digital users.

“In general, the committee is of the opinion that there is justification for additional space to become available for digital modes, as well as for the operation of digital stations under automatic control,” the committee told the Board. “The very changes in spectrum usage that have required our committee's resurgence indicate that digital modes of communication are already increasing in popularity, and the trend is expected to continue or even accelerate. To this end, we have tried to ensure that digital allocations are sufficient for at least a modicum of growth.”

The committee also anticipates an increase in automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS). The report further points to “significant use” of modern data modes in emergency communication and said its recommendations provide significant support for the evolution and continued

relevance of amateur radio. “Our failure to adapt to these needs could consign amateur radio to the technological scrap heap,” the report said.

The committee was revived last summer to consider conflicts between FT and JT modes and other modes. The panel’s approach has been to designate distinct assignments for CW, narrowband (NB) data <500 Hz, wideband (WB) data <2800 Hz, and ACDS. For its work, the committee presumed approval of three ARRL petitions to the FCC: RM-11708 (WT Docket WT 16-239 — “symbol rate” proceeding), RM-11759 (80/75 meter allocations), and RM-11828 (enhanced Technician privileges). The committee also assumed that users can agree to sharing arrangements within a given allocation — narrowband vs wideband sharing within the ACDS allocation, for example. It also took into consideration how mode usage is regulated or planned elsewhere in the world.

In terms of mode classes, the committee agreed on CW, NB data, WB data, NB with ACDS, and WB with ACDS. The committee said it considered these mode classes incompatible and that they should not have overlapping allocations, with the exception of CW, which is authorized within any amateur radio allocation. The committee’s approach would maintain the existing low-end 25-kHz CW-only sub-bands for exclusive use by Amateur Extra class licensees.

The panel encouraged CW identification and a listen-before-transmitting protocol for ACDS, if feasible. It also decided that a single allocation for ACDS without regard to bandwidth would be the best approach. “We note that this will put responsibility on the digital community to hold an effective dialog on the issue and to then self-regulate

the users of this segment to adhere to the eventual agreement.” A need for flexibility in allocations is desirable, the committee said, and considered whether allocations might be time-of-day or time-of-week dependent, for example.

“Modern amateurs must expect to adapt to this kind of fluid assignment of spectrum to incompatible uses, using time-based sharing, rather than only a single assignment,” the committee said, expressing the hope that as band plan/sharing agreements are reached that they consider the advantage of “non-simultaneous sharing possibilities.

Reiterating the position ARRL has taken in recent FCC filings, the committee said it sees encryption and open-source as enforcement matters as being outside the scope of the Band Planning Committee.

73,

Dale  
W5WI

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January 24, 2020

ARRL West Texas Section  
Section Manager: Harlon Dale Durham,  
W5WI  
[w5wi@arrl.org](mailto:w5wi@arrl.org)

Folks,

**The ARRL continues to fight for our access to the 3-Ghz band.** See below.

At its January meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors instructed the League's FCC counsel to prepare a strong response to protect amateur access to spectrum in the 3



GHz range. In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in WT Docket 19-348, the FCC proposed to relocate all non-federal operations, including amateur uses, to spectrum outside the 3.3 - 3.55 GHz band. The Commission anticipates auctioning this spectrum to expand commercial use of 5G cellular and wireless broadband services, if agreement can be reached on relocation of "or sharing with" the federal incumbents that operate in the same band. Publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register on January 22 established deadlines of February 21 for comments and March 23 for reply comments.

The FCC has requested comment on the uses radio amateurs make of the spectrum and appropriate relocation options. Complicating matters is the fact that radio amateurs must consider the possibility that the immediately adjacent 3.1 - 3.3 GHz band is included in the spectrum that Congress has identified for similar study. FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, in a December statement, referenced the fact that the lower band may also be considered for non-federal reallocation, potentially limiting relocation possibilities.

Amateurs make substantial use of the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz band that would be hard to replicate elsewhere, and they have filed more than 150 comments before the designated comment period even began. Among users looking at options are those who use this spectrum for Earth-Moon-Earth (moonbounce) communication, mesh networks, experiments with communication over long distances, radiosport, and amateur television. A portion of the band also is designated for use by amateur satellites in ITU Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas and Asia/Pacific).

A report is due by March 23 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) evaluating the feasibility of having federal users share all or part of the 3.1 - 3.55 GHz band with commercial wireless services. This report is required by the Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless (MOBILE NOW) Act. The results of the NTIA report will impact how much spectrum ultimately may be re-allocated for auction to wireless providers.

ARRL urges amateurs who comment to inform the FCC about the uses they make of the 3 GHz spectrum. Short comments and longer statements may be filed electronically. Visit the FCC "How to Comment on FCC Proceedings" page for more information. Commenters should reference WT Docket 19-348.

The how-to comment page can be found at, <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/>.

73,

Dale  
W5WI

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SKYWARN Training Schedule for 2020

Date: Saturday, 29 February  
Time: 9:00 - 11:30 am  
Location: Abilene Christian University  
Onstead-Packer Biblical Studies  
Building  
(Hart Auditorium)  
Abilene, Texas (Taylor County)