



# THE SIGNAL



Official Newsletter of the  
Tulsa Repeater Organization



Vol. 49 Issue GCHF April 2016

“Covering Tulsa through the air”

## UP FRONT – A Word from the Editor – Doug Lee, KC5ZQM

Welcome to the Tulsa Repeater Organization and the Green Country Hamfest!

This is a Special Edition of the TRO's bi-monthly newsletter, The Signal. It normally comes out in even-numbered months, but I've put this issue together to give Hamfest patrons a closer look at the club and the Hamfest.

Green Country is not like many other hamfests. Most hamfests are sponsored by a local club, and the club keeps the proceeds for its own budget. Green Country was started as a collaborative effort of clubs in Northeastern Oklahoma. It now exists as its own organization, and the proceeds go into a scholarship fund. The GCHF Committee awards a scholarship every year to a young deserving amateur radio operator who is headed to a post-secondary educational institution, such as a college or tech school. The name “Green Country” comes from the Oklahoma Tourism Commission. They designated this region as “Green Country” because of the mixture of prairie, river valleys, and wooded hills that produce abundant greenery in the Spring.

The TRO has been around for over 50 years! It started as an informal group within another club, but became a separate club, chartered by the State of Oklahoma, in 1967.

Over the years, the TRO has had a strong record of public service. Long before I became a ham, the TRO provided communications support for events like the Great Raft Race and the Tulsa State Fair Parade. Since then, we have assisted with the Maple Ridge Run, the Tulsa Run, the American Diabetes Tour de Cure, Bike MS Oklahoma, and the Route 66 Marathon. We have also assisted other clubs in support of events such as the Tour de Tulsa, Tulsa Tough Bike Rides, and the Dam Jam Bike Tour in Mayes County.

The TRO has also long supported the local Skywarn program. While these efforts are not organized by club leaders, many members have served as net controls at the Tulsa National Weather Service Office and the Tulsa Emergency Operations Center, and many are active storm spotters and chasers.

In addition to public service, the TRO does other fun things. We have recently restarted our monthly Foxhunts, and we often have good turnouts for our Field Day operations and our Christmas Party.

In order to give you a closer look at who's in the TRO, the next section contains biographical information on our elected officers.



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### TRO Monthly Membership Meetings

**1900 hrs. Third Tuesday of every month, except June (ARRL Field Day) and December (Christmas Party)**

**Tally's Good Food, Cafe11<sup>th</sup> & Yale**

<b>FOR THE RECORD – Minutes and other organizational stuff</b>
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**OFFICER BIOS****Mark Conklin N7XYO – President**

I earned my amateur radio license in 1992; I currently hold a General class license. I am a long-term member of the Tulsa Repeater Organization and a member of the Tulsa Amateur Radio Club. I am also a lifetime ARRL member.

I have been the ARRL Oklahoma Section Emergency Coordinator (ARES-OK) for several years and also served as an ARRL Public Information Officer, and as the ARRL Oklahoma Section Public Information Coordinator. In the past, I served three terms as TRO president, and several years as the club's PR Committee chairman. I am also active in our community as a SKYWARN storm spotter and occasionally storm chase for a local TV station. As needed, I have assisted the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency with communications support.

My wife, Lynn Adair, and I (and our spotted dogs) live in northern Okmulgee County, where I help as the Communications Officer for Okmulgee County Emergency Management. I am also a reserve deputy sheriff assisting with operations, planning and training. On weekdays (and a few Saturdays) you can find me at Stow's Office Furniture in Tulsa, where I am the assistant store manager.

**Paul Young, KE5EHM – Vice President**

I got started in CB radio in 1975 at age 20, did volunteer work with the Salvation Army Communications club, and did this for 5 years. I worked at Safeway and Homeland for 23 years started out as a sacker then to checker and on to Produce manger for a year or so. Had to retire from Safeway in 1995 because of back problems. A high school friend and ham got me thinking about getting my ham ticket. I went to a class and studied and took my test March 2005 at the Green Country Hamfest and got my ticket on the 29<sup>th</sup>. I joined TRO and started helping on their events. I also joined Skywarn and have gone to a lot of the NWS storm spotting classes. I hope as VP that I can bring some new ideas to help the club more forward.

**Steve Miller, AA5V – Treasurer**

I have been Treasurer of the TRO for seven years in the past and it is my fourth office held in TRO since becoming a member in 1978. I have been the Site Chairman of the 146.94 MHz repeater since 1981. My interest in amateur radio began with earning the Amateur Extra Class license and Commercial Radiotelephone license in 1978. I have been a member of ARRL since April 1977.

Additional membership activities include my participation in the planning committee for Green Country Hamfest, Inc., VE test examiner, webmaster for TRO and Green Country and as an active member in the Skywarn Group. My occupation is a Lead Programmer Analyst for Tulsa County.

**Merlin Griffin, WB5OSM – Trustee**

I was first licensed as WN5EMG in 1971 back when Novices were only allowed CW operation on 80, 40, and 15 meters. crystal controlled and power limit of 75 Watts DC Input. I mainly operated on 40 meter CW, and the Xtals I chose, I learned there were shortwave broadcasters at night on two of the three frequencies. It was my 75 watts against their ¼ megawatt.

I now hold the Extra Class license and as many of you know. I am a highly experienced ARRL accredited Volunteer Examiner, one of the most experienced in the U. S. I have participated in somewhere around 250 test sessions.

I am a past president of the TRO. I also serve as president of Green Country Hamfest, Inc. I am vice president and frequency coordinator for Oklahoma Repeater Society, Inc. We coordinate repeater frequencies in the state of Oklahoma and work with coordinators in the surrounding states to minimize interference across state lines. I serve as net control operator for the Tulsa Skywarn operation, which I have been involved in for many years. I think some of the other Skywarn NCO refer to me as NCO Emeritus. I also serve TRO as the engineering site chairman for the 146.88 repeater.

**FOR THE RECORD cont'd – Minutes, Money, and other organizational stuff****OFFICER BIOS (cont'd)****Merlin Griffin, WB5OSM – Trustee (cont'd)**

I have been employed by the City of Tulsa for 35 years, currently doing database administration and computer support for the Public Works Department's Quality Assurance Laboratory. I have expertise in both fields, analytical chemistry and computer science.

I reside in Owasso and have been an Owassoan since before it was cool. I am married to Lynda KE5VYN and have two beautiful grandchildren living with us most of the time: Kevyn, ten, and Lexie, who just turned nine. You have seen the bumper sticker, "If I knew grandchildren were so much fun I would have had them first." I pulled that off!

Look forward to seeing everybody at the Green Country Hamfest 4/08 & 09/2016 in Claremore!

**Douglas Lee, KC5ZQM**

I call this my ham radio testimony, written in November 2013:

I should have become a ham radio operator back in the last half of the 1970's. I was in the communications section of the Oklahoma Army National Guard unit in Sapulpa then, and I was also part of the national CB radio craze. Many of the CB operators in Sapulpa looked up to hams, some wanted to become hams, and a few did. I wanted to, but never followed up on that desire, until about 20 years later.

For most of my life, I have been interested in science, especially meteorology. My interest in weather kept drawing my attention, especially when storms passed through the area. So, in late 1993, I decided to pursue a career as research meteorologist. My first step was to obtain an associate degree in mathematics from Tulsa Community College before moving on to Oklahoma University. My interest in weather eventually lead me into ham radio.

While I was studying at TCC, storm chasing began to become popular. I knew that many storm chasers and spotters were hams, and they used ham radio to communicate with each other and with the National Weather Service. I had also developed an idea for a research project that could be managed by the use of spotters and ham radio. Now, I had a reason to go ahead and become a ham!

In early January, 1997, just after receiving my math degree, I called the NWS office in Tulsa to find out when and where they would have storm spotter training sessions that year. They told me about a session later that month at the West Tulsa Regional Library, and sponsored by the Tulsa Amateur Radio Club.

After the session, I noticed several people going up to one man in particular to talk to him. I thought he must be someone important in the club, and someone to talk to about becoming a ham. Well, that man was Vince Moore, N5RFW, and he was the Public Service Liaison for the club. He is now a Silent Key.

When I introduced myself to him and told him that I wanted to become a ham, he told me about a book, "Now You're Talking," and he said that it would tell me in easy-to-understand language everything I needed to know to pass the test for the entry-level Technician class license. Moments later, I checked the stacks at the library and found an older edition of that book. I checked it out and read it.

But I needed more study before taking the test. Then, Radio Shack offered a current edition on sale. I bought one and read it a couple of times before taking – and passing – the test at the Green Country Hamfest held in March at the the Convention Center in downtown Tulsa.

After that, I called the toll-free number at ARRL headquarters for over a week so they could check the FCC database for me. Finally, on March 25, they told me I now had the call sign of KC5ZQM.

Since then, as a ham, I have been involved in storm spotting, emergency and public service communications, foxhunting, balloon tracking, and I have built antennas of my own design.

Nowdays, my major interest in ham radio is public service. I am not able to do as much as I would like, but I do as much as I can. I also serve the Tulsa ham radio community itself by editing and publishing the TRO Signal Bulletin, a weekly text-only bulletin focused on ham radio events and activities in the Tulsa area.

Update: I am now the club's Secretary, in addition to continuing to serve as Public Relations Chair.

**THE BIG PICTURE – News from ARRL, Green Country Hamfest, ARES, Skywarn...**

**CLUB MEETINGS**

**Tulsa Repeater Organization**

Fourth Tuesday of the month, except June (Field Day) and December (Christmas) 1900 (7PM)

Tally's Cafe, 11<sup>th</sup> & Yale

Schedule for 2015: 26 APR 24 MAY 25-26 JUN (ARRL Field Day) 26 JUL 23 AUG 27 SEP 25 OCT 22 NOV 20 DEC (Christmas Party)

**Tulsa Amateur Radio Club**

Third Tuesday of the month 1900 (7PM)

Keplinger Hall, TU Campus, 5<sup>th</sup> & Harvard

Schedule for 2016: 19 APR 17 MAY 21 JUN 25-26 JUN (ARRL Field Day) 19 JUL 16 AUG 20 SEP 18 OCT 15 NOV 20 DEC

**Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club**

First Monday of the month (except for holidays) 1900 Central Park Recreational Center, 1500 S Main, Broken Arrow

Schedule for 2016: 02 MAY 06 JUN 05 JUL (Tuesday due to holiday) 01 AUG 08 SEP (Tuesday due to holiday) 03 OCT 07 NOV 05 DEC (tentative due to holiday)

**American Airlines Amateur Radio Club**

Last Saturday of every quarter 0900 (AM)

Martin East Regional Library

26<sup>th</sup> & Garnett

Schedule for 2016: 25 JUN 29 SEP 31 DEC

**Tulsa Digital Radio Club**

Second Saturday of every month 1300 (1 PM)

Broken Arrow Central Library

300 W Broadway

Schedule for 2016: 14 MAY 11 JUN 09 JUL 13 AUG 10 SEP 08 OCT 12 NOV 10 DEC

**Rogers County Wireless Association**

Second Saturday of every month 0900 (9 AM)

Golden Corral Restaurant 1405 West Will Rogers Boulevard Claremore OK

Schedule for 2016: 12 MAR 14 MAY 11 JUN 09 JUL 13 AUG 10 SEP 08 OCT 12 NOV 10 DEC



**April showers bring spring flowers... and the Green Country Hamfest April 8-9, 2016.**

Why the move the Hamfest to April? There's several reasons... RSU Basketball is the big reason: their use of the Claremore Expo Center will conflict with the GCHF's dates. The Expo is a very nice facility in which to hold the GCHF, free parking, not too big - not too small, the staff is very helpful and the rent is a good value. Besides everybody knows where Claremore is, plus it should be warmer in April.

With all that in mind, it just made sense to remain at the Claremore Expo Center and adjust the dates a few weeks. So after surveying all our commercial vendors we found weekend dates that they ALL can attend. Thanks for visiting us this year, in Claremore for the Green Country Hamfest April 8-9, 2016.

[www.GreenCountryHamfest.org](http://www.GreenCountryHamfest.org)



**THE BIG PICTURE (cont'd) – News from Green Country Hamfest, ARES, Skywarn...**

**HAMFEST SCHEDULE**

**GREEN COUNTRY HAMFEST 08 - 09 APR 16**

Claremore Expo 400 Veterans Parkway,  
Claremore OK 74017

Regular planning meetings are the 2nd Thursday of every month, except summer, at the Rib Crib, 81st & Yale. Next meeting will be 12 MAY 16.

[greencountryhamfest.org/](http://greencountryhamfest.org/)

**DAYTON HAMVENTION 20 – 22 MAY 16**

Hara Arena  
Dayton OH

[hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org)

**DALLAS HAM-COM 10 – 11 JUN 16**

Irving Convention Center  
Irving TX

[hamcom.org](http://hamcom.org)

**OKC HAM HOLIDAY 22 – 23 JULY 16**

Biltmore Hotel  
I-40 at Meridian  
Oklahoma City, OK

[hamholiday.org](http://hamholiday.org)

**TEXOMA HAMARAMA 21 – 22 OCT 16**

Ardmore Convention Center  
Ardmore OK

[texomahamarama.org](http://texomahamarama.org)

Eastern Oklahoma / Northwestern Arkansas



**SKYWARN STORM SPOTTER PROGRAM**

We are a collection of volunteers and professionals that participate in the Skywarn Concept for the benefit of the counties served by the National Weather Service in Tulsa Oklahoma.

We have a volunteer group of people who serve on an Advisory board with members of the Weather Service and Emergency Managers, spotters, etc... to help improve communication and information flow, adopt and promote standards for severe weather warning networks, and encourage professionalism in the volunteer ranks. We also staff the HAM desk at the NWS Tulsa with qualified volunteer HAM's during severe weather events.

**We are NOT a Club or Organization!** We have no charter or official structure. We do not recruit spotters or chasers, nor do we organize or direct them exclusively during severe events. However, we encourage all persons who participate in Skywarn activities (Emergency Managers, Spotters, Media, Net Controllers, etc...) to register in our database so that we can improve communication and knowledge among our various groups and agencies.

More importantly, ALL people in our County Warning Area are encouraged to attend spotter training, and if possible participate in one or more of our committees or activities. There is no exclusivity, formality, or title required for participating.

Instead we expect that people who want to help, make it known to us and come forward to participate on their own.

OKARKSKYWARN.ORG is only successful when we have broad, consistent, participation from our many representatives.

**We hope that if you are not one, you will become one soon!**

**TRO OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Want more information about the Tulsa Repeater Organization or have questions about articles in the newsletter, contact us at email address [wa5lvt@tulsahamradio.org](mailto:wa5lvt@tulsahamradio.org) or write to:



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