

T H E S I G N A L



Inside This Issue

The PREZ Says Announcements	1
TRO Elections	2
VP Corner	
Testing Dates	3
TRO Minutes	4
Green Country Hamfest	5
Activities Report	
VE Testing	6
Ham Saves Life	7

Merry Christmas - From the Prez!

I wish that everyone has a Merry Christmas this year, and a Happy New Year! As for me, this has been a sad year as my mother passed on Dec. 9. But she is in Heaven with her Lord, rejoicing and without pain now. Thank you for all the words of encouragement I have received.

Last month my article was "Thank You's". I apologize as for I left out one important Thank You out. With all that I was dealing with last month, I overlooked Cindy Downes as Editor of the newsletter. I am so sorry!! I do give a big "Thank You" to Cindy for all the work that she has put in this year in publishing the newsletter. I hope that each of you gives her a pat on the back as well!

I attended the MS victory party and awards dinner last month at

Indian Springs Country Club. Here are the stats from the MS Ride the Mother Road: 580 riders which included 43 teams. 250 volunteers including TRO, Top team pledge - \$65,000 , top single pledge - \$12,000, Total money raised \$420,000.....WOW!!! WTG everyone involved!!!

For everyone that worked a TRO-sponsored event and who registered, your name went on a

Continued on Page 3



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next TRO Meeting:
December 27, 7:00 p.m. at Ryan's Steakhouse,
10934 E. 21st St., Tulsa, OK.

TRO Signal Bulletin: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WA5LVT/>

Upcoming TRO Events:

www.tulсахamradio.org/troevents.htm

TRO on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_189314365941

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PREZ (CONTINUED)

ticket - one for each event and for each day that you worked. That ticket is has been entered into a drawing that will held at the December meeting for a prize up to \$100. This drawing is in addition to the annual Christmas drawing that we have and is only available to those who worked the events. So some of you could walk away with a bucket load of stuff!

Looking ahead, we have the Post Oak Run in February on the last weekend. This is a two-day event. Last time it was the same weekend as the Skywarn Spotter training, but not this year. So no excuse not to work both days. Skywarn Spotter training is March 3 next year.

Then it will be time for elections. Start thinking about your calling to serve! It has been a busy year and I have enjoyed it, but willing to share it with a new Prez if someone wants it. Cindy has announced that she has to step down as PIO/ Editor. She needs to devote more time to Bill

TRO ELECTIONS

Hello,

It's that time of year again. Time to put together a slate of officers for TRO elections.



First step is to put together a nominating committee. The committee needs to be four members and a past

president of TRO. Since I am a past president that leaves four members in good standing needed.

What do the members of the nominating committee do? We listen to the members and

because of his vision rehabilitation needs. Understandably so ! !

I wish Ray Young a Speedy recovery as he had knee surgery early this month.

In closing, have a safe New Year & I will see you next month.

Stanley
Callahan,
KE5HPB
TRO
President



put forward the list of candidates to be officers of TRO for the upcoming year.

If you are interested in serving your club on the nominating committee, as an officer*, or you would like nominate a member in good standing, please contact any of the members on the nominating committee or committee chairman Mark N7XYO at n7xyo@arrl.net or 918-232-8346.

* To determine is you are qualified to be a TRO officer, please refer to the club bylaws on the website www.TulsaHamRadio.org

Submitted by,
Mark Conklin, N7XYO

VP CORNER

The end of another year of activities comes to close with our annual Christmas party on December 27, 2011 at Ryan's steakhouse starting at 7:30 pm.

The search for a new location for the 146.94 repeater has taken up most of my time this year. Here is where we are in finding a new location. We have found a tower located on 209th W out near Lake Keystone. The owner now has a written proposal from TRO requesting space on the tower and space in one the building on site for our equipment. He is reviewing the information and will give us an answer sometime in the near future.

We are looking at scheduling another "fox hunt" this spring possibly late in February or early March.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and some new HAM gear under the Christmas tree.

Joe N5TEX
73's
TRO Vice
President



AMATEUR RADIO AREA TESTING DATES

Third Thursday of odd numbered months. **Next Session:** 19 Jan 2012, 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross building, 11th & 169. Contact Merlin Griffin. Phone 918-520-7668 or e-mail wb5osm@hotmail.com.

Second Saturday of even numbered months, **Next Session:** 11 Feb 2012 at the Church of Christ, 505 E. Kenosha Street, Broken Arrow. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Don Doyle—AC5II at ac5II@arrl.net or 918-379-0962.

First Saturday of odd numbered months, 9:30 a.m. at Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E 93rd Street, Tulsa, OK 74133.

Next Session: 07 Jan 2012.

Walk-ins welcome. Contact Tom White K5EHX. E-mail: tom@k5ehx.net or phone: 918-835-7889 and leave message. Talk-in on 146.55 simplex.

**W5YI-VEC Test Sessions**

Test sessions held the last Saturday of every third month (JAN, APR, JUL, OCT). Next Session: 28 Jan 2012. Martin East Regional Library, 2601 S.

Garnett Road, Tulsa, OK. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!** Contact John, K5ENA, K5ENA@cox.net or 918-346-8284.

Green Country Hamfest ARRL OK State Convention 2012

Test Sessions. The Hamfest test sessions will be held on March 9 and 10, 2012, in the Rogers County Building, 416 S Brady, which is in front of the Expo Center. Golf carts will shuttle people between the Hamfest and test sessions. For more info: <http://www.greencountryhamfest.org/VEtesting.asp>

Ham Test Online. A very effective online study course for hams. www.hamtestonline.com

TRO MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 22 2011

Meeting called to order by vice-president Joe Gorkos N5TEX at 19:42 hrs at Ryan's Steak House.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by secretary Ed Compos K5CRQ and a motion to accept by Brian Gnad KB5TSI was made to accept and seconded by Bill Downes KE5VKB. Motion passed on vote.

Treasurers report was given by Gary Parham KC5ZQP and motion to accept was made by Cindy Downes K5CED and second by Ben Joplin WB5VST and passed on vote.

Discussion of the Holiday Party was held and there will be drawings for gifts and cake etc. Please come and have a good time.

Brian Gnad reported that the SET went well and we discovered a simplex problem with the TAEMA Station that is being worked on.

They couldn't hear anyone.

ARES is needing to rebuild the Hospital net group and asking for people to step up and assist. So if you can please do so.

Tom Stroud KD5OPH reported that the Route 66 Marathon went well. Has approximately 12,000 runners, 8 medical carts, 82 private hand-held radio's and of course the Hams. Command Post very busy but everything went well.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED!!!!!!!

Next year we will have the Post Oak Challenge and the Tour DE Cure.

Meeting closed at 21:03 hrs Ed Compos K5CRQ

Ed Compos K5CRQ
TRO Secretary

**CQ, CQ, CQ**

The telegraph call CQ was born on the English Telegraph over a century ago as a signal meaning "All stations. A notification to all postal telegraph offices to receive the message." Its meaning was close to the present meanings of QNC and QST. Like many other telegraph terms which originated on the landlines, CQ was brought over into radio and used as a general call to all ships by the Marconi Company. Other companies used KA until the London Convention of 1912, which adopted CQ as the international general call or "attention" signal. CQ still means, literally, "attention" but in amateur radio its meaning is perhaps more accurately described by Thomas Raddell who compared it to yelling "Hey, Mac!" down a drain pipe.



But why the letters CQ? From the French, sécurité, (safety or, as intended here, pay attention)

GREEN COUNTRY HAMFEST

We purchased and donated 250 new eight foot folding tables to the Expo Center. Working with them we got a very good price on them through the Owasso Lowes stores. In return they will set them up and take them down for us for free



every year. They also get in return to rent those out to other shows at the Expo Center for their going rate. This is definitely a win-win deal for GCHF and the citizens of Claremore.

Also the Green Country

Hamfest is expanding. Meeting space has always been an issue for us with only one meeting room available, that for small meetings and forums could be partitioned into two. Most of the time at the hamfest it was in use for the all important function of VE Exams. This year we have gained for our use at no additional cost the Rogers County Building which is out in front of the Expo Center. Located at 416 S Brady. We will have golf cart shuttle service between the two buildings. Both VE testing sessions will be held in the Rogers County building, and possibly some other meetings or forums.

Also we will have a special guest speaker from ARRL HQ in Newington Ct., Larry Wolfgang, QST Technical Correspondence Editor and QEX Editor will be making some presentations, possibly participating along with other ARRL officials in a Q & A/ meet and greet session. Then hanging out at the ARRL Booth during the show. We are also working on getting a representative from Flex Radio to possibly do a forum and hopefully some demos of their Software Defined Radios. This is a nearly virtual HF rig on your computer. All you need is their software, and a small box with a small amount of dedicated RF hardware, your computer and an antenna. The beauty of SDR is much of the

operating parameters especially interference suppression filtering, and transmit audio enhancement is done through software, and in some cases can literally be done on the fly. Some portions of the software are open source, and if you have the ability you can try to write your own improvements.

The GCHF committee has voted that the grand prize this year will once again be the Elecraft K3, which is a hybrid between software defined radio, and a free standing HF rig. Well for that matter it can be upgraded and do six meter and two meter all work mode too and do all of this very well. The thing with the K3 is it looks like a conventional HF rig, feels like one, and operates like one, but still much of the filtering is software defined, and can be easily updated with a download from the internet, or again if you have the skills, try to define your own. The company has found that while the SDR concept is a very good one, and possibly superior to traditional ways of doing things. Hams by and large still want a radio that looks like a radio. We also like to have buttons to push and knobs to twist. So the K3 is kind of best of both worlds, until the virtual HF rig catches on. The rest of the prize package is yet to be determined.

The Green Country Hamfest committee meets the second Thursday of the month at Rib Crib 81st and Yale. Anyone is welcome to participate. Except our February 9th meeting is going to be in Claremore at the new Los Aztecas Mexican restaurant located at 784 S Lynn Riggs (U.S. Hwy 66) in Claremore, not to be confused with El Aztecas which is across the street from Claremore Expo, although it's the same folks running it.

[73 DE WB5OSM](#)

[Merlin Griffin](#)



ACTIVITIES REPORT

The 2011 Williams Route 66 Marathon staff volunteers, and some 12,000 participating runners would like to express their thanks for all of our hard work and efforts, and above all so would I. As the Event Communications Director I would like to express my thanks a say Awesome job today by all!, even with wind chills in the upper 30's and the wet bulb readings about the same for much of the day. The Amateur Radio Communication Volunteers were out their digging in the trenches and dealing with the cold temps. Striving to work hard and make an impending difference in the event. Thank you so much for your time and support over the weekends Marathon Activities.

[TRO Activities Chairman
Tom Stroud](#)

Amateur Radio Communication Volunteers for the November 19th 2011 Williams Route 66 5k Marathon and Fun Run.

- Event Com Director - Tom Stroud - KD5OPH
- ARC NCO - Ben Joplin - WB5VST
- ARC NCO Back-up - Ed Compos - K5CRQ
- Safety Alpha - Brian Gand - KD5TSI
- Med Tent 1 - Bart Pickens - N5TWB
- Med Cart 1 - Daniel Masson - KF5RG
- Start/Finish Announcer - Floyd Grant - NV5N

Amateur Radio Communications Volunteers for the November 20th 2011 Williams Route 66 Marathon 26 Mile

- Event Com Director - Tom Stroud - KD5OPH
- ARC NCO Ben Joplin - WB5VST - (APRS Technical Eng)
- PIO - Cindy Downs
- PIO / ARC NCO Logger - Bill Downs
- Shadow 1 - Ed Compos - K5CRQ TPD - Command Post Lesion
- Finnish / Announcer - David Eliis
- Med Cart 1 - Daniel Mason - KF5RG
- Med Cart 2 - Brian Gand - KD5TSI
- Med Cart 3 - Private Band Radio - (APRS Off-Line)
- Med Cart 4 - Jim Beach - K5URF
- Med cart 5 - Private Band Radio - (APRS Off-Line)
- Med Cart 6 - Doug Richie - KF5URX
- Med Cart 7 - Floyd Grant - NV5N
- Med Cart 8 - Bart Pickens - N5TWB

VE TESTING REPORT

100% passing rate 3rd session in a row. Three applicants and all three walked out with what they came for. We gained two new techs and an Extra. I don't have all three names in front of me right now. So that will wait for the next edition. The VE team was John KC4URD, Eli W5PPD, and Merlin WB5OSM.

Next **TRO/Red Cross** sponsored testing session will be January 19, 2012 @ 18:45 hrs., barring ice & snow.

[73 DE WB5OSM Merlin Griffin](#)

HAMS SAVE THE LIFE OF A FELLOW HAM

It was 10:00 PM as I reached for the power button of my ham radio and call it a night. Just before my finger touched the switch I heard a faint call -- someone was lost and needed help. Naturally, I would stick around to hear more. After all, this is one of those rare moments many hams live for.

Ron, KB6UF was not only lost in the Sierra Nevada mountains but also stuck. While driving alone from Louisiana to California to visit his grandkids for the Thanksgiving holiday the 68 year old missed the exit where he was scheduled to stay at a hotel. So he turned to his GPS. It instructed Ron to turn here and go there. The road turned into a gravel road and Ron knew something was wrong. "I felt like I was going in circles," he later said. He was 8 miles from the main road.

Pitched black and no street lights for miles, Ron hit a ditch. The front wheels of his small truck were in the air and it was clear he was going nowhere fast. He checked his cell phone. No cells. He has a 2 meter radio in his truck. No answers on any local repeaters. He turned to 40 meters, remembering there are usually a bunch of hams on 7.195 MHz.

Within minutes, multiple hams were offering advice; use the low gear, fill in the hole with brush and sand, rock the truck back and forth.

Somebody asked if Ron's GPS was working. It was. Ron gave out his coordinates over the air. Now as many as 100 hams monitoring the frequency knew Ron's exact location: in the hills near Mono Lake, California, near the Nevada-California border.

Dave, N5SDO in New Mexico stepped up and became net control. Everyone including Ron can hear Dave. Dave assessed Ron's predicament by asking pertinent questions: Are you alone?

How much fuel do you have? Do you have food or water? Is there somebody we can call for you? Ron gave Dave an 800 number to the Sheriff's office. Dave tried the 800 number but it was a non-functioning number.

I thought about that non-working 800 number for a second. Maybe the Sheriff's office discontinued the 800 service due to budget cuts, so I Googled the 800

number and found the local dispatch number to Mono Lake Sheriff's office in California. I called it. I had to explain I'm a ham radio operator in Chicago and I'm monitoring a man stranded and lost in hills near Mono Lake. The dispatcher said she would bring this info to her sergeant. Ten minutes later the sergeant returned my call. I quickly explained what had been happening over the past 90 minutes. "Does he need a tow or is this a search and rescue?," asked the sheriff. I relayed the question to Dave who then asked



HAMS SAVE THE LIFE OF A FELLOW HAM - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Ron. Ron said he was requesting an officer. As soon as the sheriff heard "requesting an officer" he said someone will be there in 30 minutes.

When Ron announced on the radio he could see the lights of the sheriff's car approaching, many hams monitoring the frequency cheered on air. Working together Ron doubled the nylon rope the sheriff had in an attempt to pull Ron's small truck out of the ditch. The rope snapped. Luckily, there was a piece long enough to triple fold the line and that proved strong enough to pull Ron's vehicle free. Again, hams cheered on the air as Ron was following the Sheriff back to town.

The sheriff said, "It's a good thing you had that radio otherwise we would have found you in the Spring. Nobody comes up here this time of year."

HF was the only way Ron was able to get help. Thank goodness he had a good HF mobile or he might have been out there for days (or longer). Several comments were heard stating "that does it, I was thinking about putting an HF rig in the mobile but now I'm convinced and going to do it" after listening in that night.

Thanks to all the hams that helped a fellow ham in need, especially Dave N5SDO in New Mexico, Nick W9ZXT in Illinois, Jerry N0VXE in Colorado, Dan KD0LYK in Kansas and Dave W7DBS in Nevada and of course the Mono Lake Sheriff's Office. -- Henry Schleichkorn, K9KDE, Chicago, Illinois henry@k9kde.com

From ARRL Newsletter : <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue=2011-12-21>

**TRO Christmas Party****7:00 p.m.****December 27, 2012****Ryans Steak House**
21st & Garnett

Join us at the annual TRO Christmas Party. Enjoy a meal (buy your own) and meet some new friends. We'll also have drawings for prizes!

Don't Miss It!



For more information about TRO, visit www.tulсахamradio.org

If you would like more information about the **Tulsa Repeater Organization** or have questions about articles in the newsletter, please contact us by e-mail at wa5lvt@tulсахamradio.net or write to:

Tulsa Repeater Organization

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Secretary: Ed Compos, K5CRQ, 918-231-7730 k5crq@cox.net
Treasurer: Gary Parham, KC5ZQP, 918-369-1055 kc5zqp@aol.com
Trustee: Merlin Griffin, WB5OSM, 918-520-7668 wb5osm@hotmail.com

Committee Chairperson contact information:

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