



THE SIGNAL



Official Newsletter of the
Tulsa Repeater Organization



Vol. 49 Issue 1 February 2016

“Covering Tulsa through the air”

UP FRONT – A Word from the Editor

First, I need to apologize for not producing the December issue. I got distracted by the holidays and a personal writing project I wanted to finish before the year's end.



The club currently faces two major issues: merger with Tulsa Amateur Radio club, and election of club officers.

An important development concerning the merger took place during the January meeting. The final decision on the merger will be delayed 6 months. This action will give us time to consider this issue more carefully before we commit to a particular course of action.

Officer elections will bring some changes. Chase Crum, KG5CLM, has to step down as President because a new job requires him to travel too much to allow him time for club business and activities. Ed Compos, K5CRQ, has served the club well as Secretary for many years, but he has reached the end of his time in that position. Many thanks to Ed and Chase for your valuable service to ham radio and the TRO!

Tom Stroud, KD5OPH nominated Mark Conklin, N7XYO for President, but at the time Mark didn't mention whether or not he would accept the nomination. After some thought, he has decided to accept. So, that leaves just the position of Secretary that needs to be filled.

Bart Pickens, N5TWB, is the nominating committee chairman. Contact him if you are interested in either one of the open offices, or if you wish to railro... uh, recommend someone for a particular position. You can contact Bart at: bart.pickens@okalliance.com, or (405) 570-3008.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of officer elections. Clubs are both social organizations and (legally speaking) businesses. Any group of people, no matter their purpose for existing, needs leadership to maintain a healthy social dynamic. Otherwise, the group loses focus and direction.

For several years, the club has struggled to find officers to provide that needed leadership. At times, we have had to waive some of the requirements of our own by-laws in order to fill a vital office. This should not be.

I know not everyone is capable of serving. Ten years ago, I had to resign as TRO Activities Chair because a lack of transportation prevented me from performing my duties. But just sending in your dues once a year to keep the repeaters running is no longer enough. When members fail to take an active interest in their club, then the club ceases to be interesting. If that trend continues, then the club ceases to be.

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TRO February Meeting, 1900 hrs. Tuesday 23 FEB 16
Tally's Good Food, Cafe11th & Yale

TRO MEMBERSHIP FEES
DUE 01 MAR 16

FOR THE RECORD – Minutes and other organizational stuff
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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. 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 29th. 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 that 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 haven't yet decided, but I am considering the office of Secretary. With that in mind, I offer 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.

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, 11th & Yale

Schedule for 2015: 23 FEB 22 MAR 26 APR 24 MAY 25-26 JUN (ARRL Field Day) 26 JUL

Tentative dates pending merger decision: 23 AUG 27 SEP 25 OCT 22 NOV 20 DEC

Tulsa Amateur Radio Club

Third Tuesday of the month 1900 (7PM)

Keplinger Hall, TU Campus, 5th & Harvard

Schedule for 2016: 16 FEB 15 MAR 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: 07 MAR 04 APR 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
26th & Garnett

Schedule for 2016: 26 MAR 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: 12 MAR 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. Please make plans to visit us this year, in Claremore for the Green Country Hamfest April 8-9, 2016.

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 10 MAR 16. The TRO will have an information table set up. You can come sit and help watch the table, pay your annual dues, or just say Hi!

greencountryhamfest.org/

Hanging Judge Hamfest, SAT 02 APR 16

Columbus Acres
10203 Columbus Acres Road, Fort Smith, AR

hangingjudgehamfest.com/

OZARK CON 01 - 02 APR 16

Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center
3050 Green Mountain Drive, Branson MO

ozarkcon.com/index.php

ON TAP: Dayton Hamvention in May, Ham-Com, Irving TX in June, OKC Ham Holiday in July.

Eastern Oklahoma / Northwestern Arkansas



SKYWARN STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

Tulsa County has two sessions remaining on the schedule. The first is 0900 (9 AM), Saturday, 20 FEB 16 (tentatively) at the OU Schusterman Center, 41st & Yale. The Broken Arrow ARC along with BA Emergency Management will host the last session on 07 MAR 16 at 1900 (7 PM) at the NSU Broken Arrow Campus, Education Building, 3100 East New Orleans (101st & Creek Turnpike).

These sessions are a must for anyone who plans on spotting or storm observing, and they are great info for the average person interested in weather, or who just want a better understanding severe weather in general.

You can find the calendar here: [NWS Spotter Training Page](#)



**Wagoner County Emergency Preparedness Expo
Saturday 26 MAR 16**

**Coweta Intermediate High School, 14699 S 305th
East Ave, (305th East Ave & OK 51**

Contact Tom Stroud, KD5OPH, if you have a storm chaser or spotter vehicle to display: kd5oph@tulsahamradio.org or 918.695.3735. Contact Doug Lee, KC5ZQM, if you wish to help with the PR display: kc5zqm@gmail.com, or 918-805-0337.

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

WTX DIGITAL MESSAGE EXERCISE

THE EL PASO COUNTY ARES® (EPCARES) WILL HOST THE WTX DIGITAL MESSAGE EXERCISE ON FEBRUARY 20, 2016. WE WILL BE USING WINMOR P2P AND Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) DURING THE EXERCISE. THIS EXERCISE WILL RUN FROM 1500 UTC TO 1800 UTC. SEND US AN ICS213 FORM WITH THE INFORMATION SHOWN BELOW. AFTER YOUR MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT KEEP YOUR STATION ON THE FREQUENCY AND WAIT FOR OUR REPLY. YOU MAY SEND A MESSAGE TO ALL OF OUR STATIONS IF YOU WISH. CONSULT THE ATTACHED ICS205A (Uploaded to ARESOK.ORG) FOR MODES, NAMES, CALLSIGN AND FREQUENCIES FOR PARTICIPATING EL PASO STATION.

MESSAGE CONTENT SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING.

LOCATION: (CITY AND STATE)

ARES AFFILIATION:

ARRL SECTION AFFILIATION:

ARE YOU USING A NVIS ANTENNA? (WE CAN EXERCISE THESE IN THE FUTURE)

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEST IN THESE TRAINING EXERCISES?

ALTERNATE FREQUENCIES HAVE BEEN LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ICS205A. WE WILL CHANGE FREQUENCIES EVERY 20 MINUTES AND CHANGE BANDS AT THE TOP OF EACH HOUR.

JOIN US ON D-RATS FOR LIVE CHAT DURING THE EXERCISE ON THE AE5HE RATFLECTOR. USE HOST ADDRESS: ae5he.ham-radio-op.net, PORT 9000.

FOR NBEMS WE WILL USE FLDIGI, FLMSG, FLWRAP AND FLAMP. TURN ON RXID. CHECK-INS WILL BE TAKEN USING OLIVIA 8-1K. MESSAGES SHOULD BE SENT USING MT63-1KL. AS WITH WINMOR P2P SEND US AN ICS213 WITH THE INFORMATION SHOWN ABOVE AND WAIT FOR OUR REPLY. NBEMS WILL ALSO BE CHANGING FREQUENCIES AND BANDS AT THE SAME TIMES AS THE WINMOR P2P STATIONS. CONSULT THE ICS205A FOR EXACT TIMES. HAVE FLAMP OPEN AND RUNNING ON YOUR DESKTOP AS BULLETINS WILL BE SEND OUT USING FLAMP. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUT A BULLETIN USING FLAMP PLEASE LET THE EL PASO STATION KNOW SO THAT WE CAN CLEAR THE FREQUENCY FOR YOUR TRANSMISSION.

73,

LEW, KB5HPT

ARES® EC, EL PASO COUNTY, TX

Listen for the ARES-Oklahoma Tulsa Regional Weekly Thursday Night Net

2000 hrs (8:00 PM) Every Thursday Weeks 1-3: 147.39 (no PL); Weeks 4 & 5: TARC W5IAS UHF Superlink System 443.850 (East Tulsa hub), 442.000 (Mannford), 444.600 (Mounds/ NW Okmulgee Co.), all with (+) offset and 88.5 PL.

Back- up: 146.880 (PL 82.5, 88.5 or 141.3)

Listen for the ARES Oklahoma HF Net @ 2130 hrs UTC (1630 CDT)

Every Sunday 7.260 MHz (alt freq 3.900 MHz)+/- QRM

February 2015

VE Test Sessions

WALK-INS ARE WELCOME AT ALL SESSIONS!

ARRL VEC SESSIONS:

Tulsa Repeater Organization

Third Thursday of odd-numbered months, 1900 (7 PM)

American Red Cross

10151 E 11th (11th & US 169)

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128

Contact: Merlin Griffin WB5OSM at 918-520-7668 - leave message, or email: WB5OSM@hotmail.com

Schedule for 2016: 17 MAR 12 MAY 14 JUL 15 SEP 17 NOV

Broken Arrow Emergency Management

First Saturday of odd-numbered months - 0930 to 1100 (9:30 to 11 AM)

Broken Arrow Public Service Complex

1001 N 6th Street

Broken Arrow OK 74013

Contact: Skipper Smith, NQ2J at: nq2j@mail.com, or 918-853-8118

Schedule for 2016: 05 MAR 07 MAY 02 JUL 03 SEP 05 NOV

Broken Arrow Amateur Radio Club

Second Saturday of even-numbered months at 0930 (9:30 AM)

Broken Arrow Public Service Complex

1001 N 6th Street

Broken Arrow OK 74013

Contact: Don Doyle AC5II at AC5II@arrl.net or 918-379-0962

Schedule for 2016: 08 APR 11 JUN 13 AUG 08 OCT 10 DEC

Rogers County Wireless Association (New session in Owasso)

First Saturday of each quarter at 0900 (9:00 AM)

Bethel Baptist Church

10705 E 86th St N, Room136 (133 overflow)

Owasso, OK

Enter at east doors from parking lot

Contact: Phil Stephens, W5PTT at: W5PTT@cox.net

Schedule for 2016: 02 APR 02 JUL 01 OCT

W5YI VEC SESSIONS:

Last Saturday of even-numbered months, 0945 (9:45 AM)

Broken Arrow Public Service Complex

1001 N 6th Street

Broken Arrow OK 74013

Contact: Skipper Smith, NQ2J at: nq2j@mail.com, or 918-853-8118

Schedule for 2016: 27 FEB 30 APR 25 JUN 27 AUG 29 OCT 31 DEC

President (outgoing)	Chase Crum	KG5CLM	918.991.9031	kg5clm@tulsahamradio.org
President (incoming)	Mark Conklin	N7XY)	918.232.8346	n7xyo@arrl.net
Vice-President	Paul Young	KE5EHM	918.637.8414	ke5ehm@tulsahamradio.org
Secretary	Ed Compos	K5CRQ	918.231.7730	k5crq@cox.net
Treasurer	Steve Miller	AA5V	918.381.8574	aa5v@tulsahamradio.org
Trustee	Merlin Griffin	WB5OSM	918.520.7668	wb5osm@tulsahamradio.org
Activities	Kenneth Baucum	KG5CBM	918.271.1435	kg5cbm@gmail.com
By-Laws	Gary Parham	KC5ZQP	918.369.1065	kc5zqp@aol.com
Engineering	Joe Gorkos	N5TEX	918.230.8243	n5tex@tulsahamradio.org
Membership	Charles Burka	KE5AHE	918.812.3843	ke5ahe@tulsahamradio.org
Operating Standards	open			
Past President	Mark Conklin	N7XYO	918.366.2007	n7xyo@arrl.org
Public Relations	Doug Lee	KC5ZQM	918.805.0337	kc5zqm@gmail.com

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



Tulsa Repeater Organization

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