



# On Your MARC

The Newsletter of the McKinney Amateur Radio Club,  
W5MRC



Volume 44 #01

Visit our Web page @ <http://www.mckinneyarc.org>

January, 2019

## Next Meeting:

Come learn from a presentation on FSQ by Paul Newman, KA5TYW, and fellow participants in the North Texas FSQ 'mesh'. Portable FSQ stations will be available for 'hands-on' learning after the presentation. Please bring your laptop or Raspberry Pi to get the latest version of FLDIGI and recommended configuration.

See page 9 for more details.

## MEETING PLACE

MARC holds its regular business meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are located at:

Spring Creek Barbeque  
1993 North Central Expressway  
McKinney, TX

Exit US-75 at US-380 (University Drive), travel west making a right into the Target complex.

Once in the complex, Spring Creek can be found to your right directly across from the Target Building.

## MARC Mentoring Program

Are you looking for someone to answer Amateur Radio related questions or assist you with getting to that next license class? Contact the MARC Mentor Program Coordinator to be matched up with a volunteer Mentor who will work with you. Send an Email to [mentor@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:mentor@mckinneyarc.org) for more information, to start getting answers, or if YOU would like to become a Mentor!



## President's Message

Happy New Year to all! I hope all had a great Christmas season and are ready for the challenges and adventures of another new year. Regarding MARC, first let's welcome our new officers; Sid KG5DKW-Vice President and Michael N5MAJ-Secretary.

Briefly, I think we all enjoyed the MARC Christmas party. Along with the door prizes and gift exchange, we were also pleased to collect a large box of toys, and about \$75 in cash, which we delivered to the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve's *Toys for Tots*™ campaign.

Saturday, January 19, we are again preparing for the National Weather Service Collin County SkyWarn training at the Collin College Central Park campus. With the current political turmoil, we just hope it will not be canceled. In any event, the MARC Board of Directors will be meeting promptly at 8:00 a.m. at either Collin College or, in the event of cancellation, Creekwood United Methodist Church (our normal meeting location). Watch for an email blast as the date approaches.

Also Bob K5CRX will be presenting early in January the first of several training events. The first is titled *DC Circuits*. See the schedule elsewhere in this issue of *On Your MARC*.

73,

Bill N5YZ

MARC President

[president@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:president@mckinneyarc.org)

# MARC Officers and Supporting Roles

## 2019 MARC OFFICERS

**President:** ..... Bill Vining, N5YZ  
[president@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:president@mckinneyarc.org)

**Vice President:** ..... Sid Gibson, KD5DKW  
[programs@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:programs@mckinneyarc.org)

**Secretary:** ..... Michael Jarvis, N5MAJ  
[secretary@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:secretary@mckinneyarc.org)

**Treasurer:** ..... Dave Piekarski, N5EEN  
[treasurer@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:treasurer@mckinneyarc.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** ..... Bob DeVance, K5CRX  
[newsletter@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:newsletter@mckinneyarc.org)

**Director-at-Large:** ..... Andy Barnes, W5KZJ  
[dirlarge@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:dirlarge@mckinneyarc.org)

**Repeater Trustee:** ..... Ron Carlson, WW2CBI  
[trustee@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:trustee@mckinneyarc.org)

**Communications Director:** Bob DeVance, K5CRX  
[commdirector@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:commdirector@mckinneyarc.org)

### Supporting Roles

**ARRL Awards Manager:** ..... Mike Baker, W8CM

**Club FCC License Trustee:** ..... Brian Belcher, WA5M

**Club Librarian:** ..... Ron Carlson, WW2CBI

**Mentor Coordinator:** ..... Andy Barnes, W5KZJ  
[mentor@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:mentor@mckinneyarc.org)

**Net Manager:** ..... Kyle Ackerman, N5KRA

**Public Information Officer:** ..... Lynda Tuma, KF5JUO  
[info@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:info@mckinneyarc.org)

**QSL Manager:** ..... Claude Canterbury, KE6EJG

**Repeater Control Operators:** ..... Brian Belcher, WA5M  
Mike Baker, W8CM  
Dave Piekarski, K5EEN  
Dave Power, KS5SK

**VE Team Leader:** ..... Stephen Reinen, N8BP  
[ve-testing@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:ve-testing@mckinneyarc.org)

**Webmaster:** ..... Michael Jarvis, N5MAJ  
[webmaster@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:webmaster@mckinneyarc.org)

**Web Administrator:** ..... Michael Jarvis, N5MAJ

**Youth Coordinator:** ..... Dan McKinley, W5FRT  
[youth@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:youth@mckinneyarc.org)

**Meeting Presentations:** If you or someone you know would like to present a topic at one of our meetings, or if you have questions about a past presentation, please contact our presentation coordinator at [programs@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:programs@mckinneyarc.org)

**Join Us!** The club is open to all, especially those who want to be or are involved in Amateur Radio. Please contact the club secretary at [secretary@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:secretary@mckinneyarc.org) or by post at the above address for more information or access an application on our website <http://mckinneyarc.org/>.

### **CREDITS & KUDOS**

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## **Distribution and Submission Information**

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**ALL** current members including those who are part of family memberships may receive the Emailed version. To switch versions send an Email [newsletter@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:newsletter@mckinneyarc.org) and include the following information: Member Name, Call Sign, Email address and version desired.

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Readers wishing to submit an item for publication should send it to:  
[newsletter@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:newsletter@mckinneyarc.org)

or  
Editor, *On Your MARC*  
P.O. Box 267  
McKinney, TX 75069

**Submissions may be sent at any time.** The Editor reserves the right to determine suitability for inclusion in the newsletter and to edit submissions to fit space available.

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## **NOTICE**

The MARC Board of Directors meeting for January, 2019, location will be announced via e-mail pending the outcome of the government shutdown and its impact on SkyWarn personnel availability. See President’s message for details.

# Minutes of the General Meeting



## Minutes of the General Meeting December 11, 2018

Bill- N5YZ called the meeting to order at 7 PM and Miles Jarvis led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions went around the room, there were 34 members and family members and 1 visitor present.

Bob-K5CRX announced that Christy Lenoir, wife of Richard at MTC is undergoing treatment for a medical condition and a card was passed around the room for members to sign to wish her well.

**NEW LICENSEES/CALL SIGNS:** New call signs: Jim Grounds WA5ABZ, Kyle Ackerman N5KRA. Kyri Calder KG5WXZ is now a General.

**VE TESTING REPORT:** Ron- K5NKD reported that there were 5 who tested for Technician and 4 passed.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Bill N5YZ reported that the Minutes of the November General Meeting had been published in the November Newsletter, and requested a motion to approve the Minutes as published. Motion by Robert-NS5P, second by Jay-W5GM. The motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bill N5YZ presented the Club's Financial report as compiled by our treasurer, Dave K5EEN.

Beginning Balance: \$16,593.29  
+ Revenue : \$ 1083.08  
- Expenses : \$ 18.16  
= Ending Balance : \$ 17,658.21

**CLUB NETS:** Bill N5YZ reviewed our Club nets

General Information Net: Every Sunday at 8:00PM – W5MRC repeater, 146.740 MHz, offset -0.600 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz

Ladies Net: suspended

Simplex Net: Every Monday at 8:30PM – 146.540 MHz. No offset or tone required.

### **BUSINESS:**

-Bill- N5YZ announced that the next board meeting will be December 15, 2018 at Denny's Restaurant, 209 North Central Expressway, Allen TX at 8 AM. All are welcome to attend.

-Bill –N5YZ announced that SkyWarn training will be held at Collin County Community College on 1/19/19

-Bill –N5YZ thanked all who donated toys and cash for our Toys for Tots collection for 2018.

-Bill- N5YZ thanked those who made donations of gifts for door prizes in addition to those bought by the club. In particular he thanked Maine Trading Company and Dan-W5FRT.

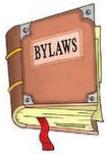
### **PROGRAM:** Christmas Party

Door Prizes:

-Winners of door prizes were Steve Jones, Austin McKinley, John Newton, Dave Power, Kenneth Spock, Stephen Forney, Danielle Fay, Alex Cole, Liz McFadden, Kyle Ackerman, Dave Cowling, Tessa DeVance, Dennis Strouble, Tim Fay, and John McFadden

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# Minutes of the Board Meeting



## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting 12/15/2018

**ATTENDEES:** Bill Vining – N5YZ, Dave Piekarski – K5EEN, Ron Carlson – WW2CBI, Bob DeVance-K5CRX, Lisa Barnes – KG5OBK

**GUESTS:** Michael Jarvis-N5MAJ, Sid Gibson K5DKW, Ron Witherington – K5NKD

Bill – N5YZ called the meeting to order at 8:00AM at Denny's Restaurant, 209 North Central Expressway, Allen TX.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Lisa - KG5OBK reported that the minutes of the November Board Meeting had been published in the November Newsletter, and made a motion to approve the minutes as published. Second by Dave-K5EEN. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dave – K5EEN, provided the Club's Yearly Financial Report. Total revenue to date for 2018 \$5774.07. Total expenses for the year \$3,128.99. Annual net: \$2,645.08

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Repeaters Update:

-City of McKinney: Bob- K5CRX-not pursuing completion of agreement until back up repeater work is done

-Ron -WW2CBI provided the following updates regarding repeaters/ antennas:

-Antenna has been put back together and will use at the Virginia / Custer location

-Will be purchasing two temperature controllers, one for each hut, to be able to turn fan on if needed. Ron has fans to sell the club for

this. Bill – N5YZ advised that it would be okay to do that.

-will pulse batteries from Jay and then store them at Melissa hut. Jay still has the batteries at this time.

-Dave –K5EEN need to make model spec to send to Jay for documentation for tax purposes of his donation of batteries. He also documented the money that was sent to Jay from the general fund for recognition, not a payment.

### Review of December General Meeting Program:

Christmas Party and Toys for Tots - Bill –N5YZ reported that the party was a success with good attendance and lots of fun during the White Elephant Gift exchange. He took the box of donated toys and \$73 cash collected to the Toys for Tots location in Princeton. Lisa KG5OBK recommended that we start earlier next year in collecting the donations for Toys for Tots and work with the management at Spring Creek BBQ to see if they will allow us to put a donation box in prior to our December meeting. Lisa – KG5OBK also recommended that door prizes should be only for members and that members need to be present to win. Bob –K5CRX talked about putting this information in the newsletter before the party so that attendees are informed of this prior to the party. Michael- N5MAJ

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### NOTICE

**The next MARC Board meeting will be held on January 19, 2019**

**at**

**either Creekwood United Methodist Church or SkyWarn, depending on the government shutdown. A notification e-mail will be sent as soon as we have an answer.**

**Visitors are always welcome!**

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**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:** Matt Childs KL1RX, motion made by Andy -W5KZJ to accept as member, second by Michael K5MFP. Motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT:** Andy-W5KZJ made a motion to adjourn, second by Robert- NS5P. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Lisa Barnes KG5OBK, Secretary MARC

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suggested that members be given their tickets for the door prizes when they check in at the meeting.

**Thank You:** Bill - N5YZ thanked Robert - NS5P, vice president, and Lisa KG5OBK, secretary, for their service during 2018.

**Website Update:** Michael -N5MAJ will be using Word Press for the new domain for our website. Cost is \$60 per year/ \$5 per month. The most advanced service they offer is \$25 per month.

**VE Testing Team Status Update:** Dave - K5EEN will be clarifying with Stephen regarding whether he is staying on as the VE coordinator.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Membership list:** Dave K5EEN distributed a list of members that have not yet renewed their membership for 2019. It was decided that he would split up the list and send a portion of the list to each board member to make a call to those members to encourage them to renew their memberships.

**Classes in 2019:** Bob K5CRX presented a list of

classes he is recommending for 2019 to be held on the second Saturday of the month from 9 AM to noon at the Lucas Fire Station. He will be checking with the fire department regarding availability of the training room. Classes will be January 12- DC Circuits, February 9-AC Circuits, March 9-Solid State Devices, and April 13-Digital Circuits.

**SkyWarn Training:** Bill -N5YZ advised that we will not be serving coffee and donuts at SkyWarn training on 1/19/19,, that the college has a vendor that supplies all food service, that no food can be brought in from outside the facility.

**Board of Directors meeting January 19, 2019:** Bill - N5YZ asked if board would like to hold the January BOD meeting at SkyWarn instead of at Creekwood United Methodist Church. After discussion it was decided to hold the January BOD meeting at SkyWarn at Collin County Community College at 8 AM and that if for some reason it is cancelled then the BOD meeting would be held at the church. Bob - K5CRX will make the announcement in the newsletter.

## ADJOURNMENT-

Dave- K5EEN made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Ron- WW2CBI. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:58 AM.

Lisa Barnes KG5OBK, Secretary MARC



## Do you have GAS?

I was sitting in the barber shop in downtown Wylie the other day and picked up a copy of the October 2015 Texas Parks and Wildlife the Outdoor Magazine of Texas. There was an article titled “The Burden of Excess Gear”, explaining the acquisition of equipment didn’t lead to better photography. The author continued with a denial of a problem wanting to get one more piece of equipment to get that perfect picture. After soul searching, he determined he had Gear Acquisition Syndrome... (known as GAS).

As I continued reading, I caught myself comparing this to ham radio. I starting look around the shack and realized I have some of the symptoms of GAS. The question I asked myself after reading the article is, “how many radios do you really need?” I have a Kenwood TS 2000 sitting on the desk in the shack I can do almost anything with. Operate CW, SSB, Digital...and much more. I realize there are the digital voice modes that my Kenwood will not do, just saying. I also understand there is the issue of antennas, and have realized that the term “antenna, antenna, antenna” holds a lot of merit. Less radio and more antennas will make a better station.

Symptoms to look for are highlighted and dog-eared pages in the ham radio catalog, creating online wish lists, and making stops at the local ham shop just to look. There is also another symptom to GAS; lots of small items like many connectors, filters, cables, and other accessories. The author indicated that thankfully there is a cure to GAS. By gradually passing on or selling some equipment that is sitting under the shelf or that you put back in the box in your shack, you can get some relief for GAS.

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## From the Editor



I hope you enjoy this issue of “On Your MARC”. As always, we need your articles and input to create a great newsletter. A big “Thank You” to those providing content in this issue.

We still need some “Meet the Members” articles from you, the membership. It’s simple—just answer the questions in the template below and I’ll compile it into an article. And you may want to add your picture as well—just include it with your information.

Happy New Year —

Bob, K5CRX, Editor

### Help for “Meet the Members” Articles

To help you submit your “Meet the Members” article, just fill in the following questionnaire and send it to [newsletter@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:newsletter@mckinneyarc.org).

Name:

Call sign:

Operator Class:

Where did you grow up?

When were you first licensed as a HAM?

Where did you take your exam(s)?

What interested you most about HAM radio?

What is your favorite part of HAM radio (local communications, “rag-chewing”, DX chasing, emergency communications, special events, public service, etc.)?

What types of HAM operating do you like (local thru the repeater, digital operations, HF rag-chewing, HF contesting, award qualification, etc.)?

What are your goals for your future in HAM radio?

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## Guest Editorial

**Editor's Note:** The following excellent editorial is provided by John Bee, N1GNV, of Quicksilver Radio Products. Please visit their website [www.qsradio.com](http://www.qsradio.com) for more. I found John's insights right on target for 2019. He graciously granted permission to reprint his article from Quicksilver's newsletter.

As 2018 slides into 2019, it's natural to think about plans for the coming year. And I'd like to ask a favor of you -- please put Ham Radio on your list of New Year's Resolutions. Here are some ideas to consider:

1. If, by chance, you are not yet a licensed Ham Radio Operator, get your license this year. If you have not yet passed your General or Extra test, do it this year. Having trouble studying or passing? I have some tips on my Web Site that I think will be helpful. [Click here to see them.](#)

2. Try something. A good friend of mine likes to say that there are 30 different kinds of Ham Radio, and there's something there for everyone. FM repeaters and HF SSB just scratch the surface. You already have a computer. New digital and sound card modes seem to appear weekly. A short while ago, no one had heard of FT-8. It's now, by many accounts, the most popular HF Digital mode. D-Star, DMR, Fusion, and other digital voice modes are growing by leaps and bounds. Have you tried 6 Meters yet? The Magic Band can yield some surprising contacts. How low can you go? There's some interesting action on our newest bands at 630 and 2200 Meters. At (literally) the other end of the spectrum, we have Ham Bands well into the GHz region. Microwaves are useful for more than making popcorn! Or maybe try some SSB or CW on 2 Meters or 70 Centimeters? Every Ham has full privileges on all of the bands above 30 MHz. Antennas for VHF and UHF are small and easy to construct from hardware store parts. It doesn't have to be pretty -- an ugly antenna will radiate just as well. Use your imagination and try something different!

3. Do something. Set an achievable Ham Radio goal for the year -- and then work at it! Earn DXCC or WAS, maybe on a single band? Better your contest score by 10%? Get your CW speed up to 20 WPM? Reorganize and rewire the shack? Order a copy of the ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book, and start increasing your technical knowledge? Convert your paper logs to electronic format and start using Logbook of the World? One of my father's favorite sayings was "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." Just do it!!

4. Build something. Too many years ago, as I newly licensed Ham I got very involved in Packet Radio. With a double throw switch and some mic connectors, I built a box to allow either voice or data use by just flipping the switch. OK, not exactly cutting edge, but it worked and led me to build plenty of other handy gadgets over the years. Simple projects can also be a great way to teach new hams the basics of soldering and kit-building. String up that antenna you've been thinking about forever and see how it plays. Download a free antenna modeling program and learn how to use it to design and build your own BandBlaster. Order a kit and assemble it. Melt some solder and have fun! Once you start, you'll be hooked.

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5. Learn something. Microcontrollers like the Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and PICaxe are quite inexpensive. With a few LEDs and pushbuttons, you can learn simple programming to get started. There are plenty of useful Ham Radio projects that you can find online. And if you have an idea for your own gadget, you'll have a lot of fun learning how to roll your own computer code.

6. Teach something. You know how to do things others don't, but would like to learn. Are you already familiar with programming microcontrollers? How about a club project to teach the basics to other members? Or a demonstration on using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors?

7. Become a "HAMbassador". Get just one person (or two, or three) interested in Amateur Radio. Offer to demonstrate Ham Radio at the Senior Citizens' center, Boy or Girl Scout meetings, the Rotary Club, or any similar organization. Groups like that are always looking for an interesting speaker or activity. A simple but impressive and effective demonstration is to bring an HT and ask for a "Roll Call". Notify your club in advance... all they need to do is reply with "This is (name, callsign) in (town)." Remember that we're Hams because we enjoy talking to other people. The more Hams, the more contacts we can make.

8. Get involved! Join your local Radio Club. If you already belong, attend the meetings. Just about every club (not just Radio Clubs) has the same problem -- 10% of the people do 90% of the work. You don't need to volunteer for everything... select an area that interests you, and help with that. Even better, suggest an activity and then take the lead in organizing it. Something as simple as "I'm going to set up a portable station at the park on Saturday morning, everyone is welcome to come by" can be a great time. If you add "Free coffee and donuts" to your announcement, you'll draw a real crowd ;-)

9. Stay positive, ignore the negative. Don't listen to the cranky old farts who insist that "Ham Radio is dying". Or better yet, [point them here](#) where they'll find that the number of licensees is at an all-time high. Participation in contests remains strong, even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Manufacturers continue to introduce new models that we could barely dream of just a few years ago. Hamfests that are well-organized and well-run are thriving. Ham Radio has been evolving for over a century now, and it continues to do so. The Magic of Radio never goes away.

10. Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2019!

Once again, my sincere best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season and New Year.

Thanks and warm 73,

**John Bee, N1GNV**

**Quicksilver Radio Products**

[www.qsradio.com](http://www.qsradio.com)

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Not accusing anyone, but as I read the article, I thought there has to be more people that probably also suffer with GAS.

73,  
Andy, W5KZJ

### **Thank you**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of serving as the MARC secretary during 2018. I have enjoyed serving our club this year

73,  
Lisa Barnes KG5OBK

### **January Club Meeting Program Announcement**

Do you use a smartphone, tablet, or computer for texting? If, "Yes", what if the phone system or internet is unavailable and you want or need to text message, send a file, or share a picture with someone. As a licensed amateur radio operator you have a fun, easy-to-use, and versatile solution: the Fast Simple QSO (FSQ) digital modem provided by the FLDIGI software program. FSQ can be used for long-distance rag-chewing on 80m, 40m, and 30m USB, as well as for local area chatting, public service, and EMCOM communications on VHF/UHF FM. Come join us at our January 8 club meeting to receive a presentation on FSQ by Paul Newman, KA5TYW, and fellow participants in the North Texas FSQ 'mesh'. Portable FSQ stations will be available for 'hands-on' learning after the presentation. As a plus, if you would like a 'jump-start' for operating with FSQ, please bring your laptop or Raspberry Pi to get the latest version of FLDIGI and recommended configuration.

### **From your Vice-President: Upcoming programs**

Howdy! I hope everyone had a great Christmas. As in years past, 2019 will be full of opportunities to learn, serve, make new friends and have fun on the air!

As advertised, we'll start the new year off with a presentation on FLDIGI/FSQ. Feel free to

bring your computer or raspberry pi for help configuring/setting up this versatile software.

Other presentations planned for this year:

Stealth Antennas - How to keep your HOA happy AND be able to work DX, using hidden loops (up to 9' in Diameter!), loading up the rain gutters on your house for use as antenna, hiding verticals and dipoles in plain site. Great information will be shared by fellow club members on this topic.

PIstar - The latest info on how to setup/use your Raspberry PI to get on DSTAR (and other digital modes).

Parks on the Air (POTA) - Heading to a National Park this year? Get the scoop on what you need to do to activate/get on the air. No Plans for a Park? Find out how to make contact with as many as possible. Chase the Parks!

Satellites - Learn how to work the FM repeater satellites with just an HT and as little as one watt! Bounce signals off the bird into multiple states, Mexico and Canada, again, with just an HT. This comprehensive presentation will include a live demonstration from the parking lot (weather permitting).

Plans are already being made for FIELD DAY 2019! It will be held on June 22,23 this year. Mike Jarvis (N5MAJ) and I will be your co-chairs

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again this year. If you would like to help in any way, let us know. Send us an email or catch us at a meeting.

Finally, even though we have some presentations lined up for the year, we always need more. If you have something you would like to present, let me know. If you caught a presentation at another club or event, and would like to see it presented for

MARC, let us know! With several thousand licensed Hams in the Metro area, we have a tremendous pool of information/talent available.

Help us put it to use. Remember, this is your club, tell us what you would like to see.

73,

Sid -K5DKW

[vice-president@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:vice-president@mckinneyarc.org)

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### Electronics 101 Classes Announced

MARC will offer introductory electronics classes in the first four months of 2019. These classes are composed to provide hands-on experience along with basic theory in DC Circuits, AC Circuits, Solid State Devices, and Digital Circuits. The proposed location is the Lucas Fire Station Training Room if available. McKinney Fire Station 7 Training Room is the back-up. Proposed dates are January 12, February 9, March 9, and April 13.

#### DC Circuits

This class will cover basic components and their use in DC (direct current) circuits. To facilitate the “hands-on” aspect, components, meters, wiring, and breadboards will be provided. While discussing a particular part or aspect, each individual will have hands on direct experience with the concept or item involved.

Some topics to be covered are current, voltage,

resistance, Ohm’s Law, resistors, lamps, switches, batteries and color codes.

#### AC Circuits

This class will cover the basics of AC circuits. Coils and capacitors will be used, along with signal generators and oscilloscopes, to demonstrate the effects of these components on AC signals. To facilitate this “hands-on” aspect, components, meters, wiring, signal sources, oscilloscopes, and breadboards will be provided. While discussing a particular part or aspect, each individual will have hands-on direct experience with the concept or item involved.

Some topics/items to be covered are capacitive and inductive reactance, Ohm’s Law for AC circuits, oscillators, resistors, inductors, and capacitors. Appropriate handouts will also be provided to enhance the “take away” and for future reference.

#### Solid State Devices and Circuits

This class will cover a variety of solid-state devices with emphasis on diodes and transistors. To facilitate the “hands-on” aspect, participants will identify and test solid state components and subsequently bread board simple circuits using those components and observe their functions on the oscilloscope to demonstrate how they work. Appropriate handouts will also be provided to enhance the “take away” and for future reference.

#### Digital Circuits

This class will cover digital principles (How do you count using only ones and zeroes?), basic digital electronics building blocks, and some practical, hands-on application of those integrated circuit components. This is a unique opportunity for participants to experience working with voltage regulators, timers, and digital logic on the breadboard. Appropriate handouts will also be provided to enhance the “take away” and for future reference.

Bob, K5CRX

# Buy, Sell, Trade, Give Away

Have items to buy, sell, trade, or give away in the radio/computer world? MARC members may post these items here by e-mailing a brief description of their items and contact information to [newsletter@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:newsletter@mckinneyarc.org).

MARC also hosts a monthly Sidewalk Sale where many more great deals can be found! The Sidewalk Sale is held on the last Weekend of each month in the Southwest parking lot of Collin College's McKinney Campus located at the corner of US 380 (University) and Community.

## McKinney EWS Siren Test

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who came out to help with the siren test December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was short notice and we had enough people to cover 13 sirens of which we found new problems with two.

Our next scheduled siren test is Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will need enough people to cover 28 sirens this time around. We start check-ins at 11:40 AM; the test should begin at 12:00 PM. Following the test, we report the results back to net control. It should be wrapped up by 12:15 PM. Following the completion of the test, those who want to do so usually go someplace to eat. I'm including a link to a Signup Genius page with an unlimited number of slots.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB44AAA62EA5FB6-mckinney1>

Please follow the link and sign up and give back to our community.  
Andy, W5KZJ

## Support MARC with AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support MARC every time you shop, at no cost to you, at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). You'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenience as Amazon.com, but the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to MARC.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

On your first visit, select **McKinney Amateur Radio Club Inc.** as the charitable organization to receive donations from your eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation to the McKinney Amateur Radio Club.

## McKinney Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

### Sunday Night Net Control Operator Schedule

Date	Name/Call sign	Info	Back up
Dec. 2, 18	Ricky, NI2C		Sid, K5DKW
Dec. 9, 18	Sid, K5DKW		Skip, KG5SGU
Dec. 16, 18	Skip, KG5SGU	MARC ARES	Andy, W5KZJ
Dec. 23, 18	Andy, W5KZJ		Bill, N5YZ
Dec. 30, 18	Bill, N5YZ		Bob, K5CRX
Jan. 6, 19	Bob, K5CRX		Danny, W5FRT
Jan. 13, 19	Danny, W5FRT	MARC ARES	Dave, AK5SP
Jan. 20, 19	Dave, AK5SP		David, KS5SK
Jan. 27, 19	David, KS5SK		James, KG5UIK
Feb. 3, 19	James, KG5UIK		Jeff, W5JLT
Feb. 10, 19	Jeff, W5JLT		Joshua, K5GHS
Feb. 17, 19	Joshua, K5GHS	MARC ARES	Lisa, KG5OBK
Feb 24, 19	Lisa, KG5OBK		Michael, N5MAJ

If you are unable to make your scheduled date and time, please contact your backup operator and also Kyle (972-979-7095, [kyle.ackerman02@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.ackerman02@gmail.com)), as soon as possible. **Please be aware if your week falls on the week marked "MARC ARES". The MARC Repeater is scheduled for the ARES Net at 9:00 PM.**

**REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN HELP OTHERS IN AN EMERGENCY.**  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COLLIN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE  
PLEASE VISIT THEIR WEB-SITE: [HTTP://WWW.COLLINARES.NET](http://www.collinares.net) (Note: site not currently functional.)

**MARC operates open repeaters on 146.740 and 443.200 MHz**

EchoLink is provided on 146.740 by connecting through W5MRC-R. Regular/frequent users of the repeater are encouraged to join the club and be an active part of the local Ham community, as well as helping to support the repeaters' continued operation.

The MARC information net is held every Sunday at 8:00PM CT, on 146.740 MHz.

Collin County ARES holds a training net on the third Sunday of each month at 9:00 PM CT on 146.740 MHz.

The MARC simplex net is held every Monday at 8:30PM CT, on 146.540 MHz.

**MARC E-Mail Reflector—groups.io**

MARC maintains a chat group on groups.io to facilitate club communication between meetings and newsletters. Sign up for this service by visiting <https://groups.io/g/McKinneyARC>. Your application will be approved quickly.

*The purposes of the MARC email reflector are: 1) Facilitate the timely distribution of MARC information and news to club members. 2) Allow for the sharing of amateur radio related topics among club members. 3) Provide a forum for the discussion of amateur related information among club members. 4) Act as a marketplace for the buying and selling of amateur radio and computer equipment and services. Club members should utilize good judgment with regard to topics or content that are posted on the MARC reflector. To that end it is recommended that political and religious topics or content be avoided unless directly related to amateur radio. In addition, personal attacks in any form will not be tolerated.*

**VE SESSIONS ARRL EXAMS \$15**

**McKinney testing** is held at the Heard Natural Museum, 1 Nature Place, in McKinney, on the first Sunday of each month except holiday weekends. Starting time is 2:30pm and ends no later than 4:45pm (they close at 5:00pm). For more information check our website at [www.mckinneyve.org](http://www.mckinneyve.org) or contact Stephen Reinen, N8BP at (214) 937-9982 or by email at [info@mckinneyve.org](mailto:info@mckinneyve.org).

**Richardson testing** is held on the third Thursday of each month at St. Barnabas Church, located at 1220 West Beltline Rd. Sessions start at 7 PM. Walk-Ins are ok. For more information, contact Bill Owens, AD5EW at (972) 380-2859 or [wtowens3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wtowens3@sbcglobal.net).

**Sherman testing** is held on the first Thursday of each EVEN--numbered month (Feb, Apr, Jun, etc.) at the Grayson County College, Center for Workplace Learning Seminar Room C, 6101 Grayson Drive, Denison TX 75020 at 7:00pm. For more information contact: Ron Witherington, K5NKD, [rwitherington@verizon.net](mailto:rwitherington@verizon.net) or at (214.394.7950) Call first!

**Garland testing** is held on the fourth Thursday of each month and begins at 7:00pm. Location is : Freeman Heights Baptist Church, 1120 Garland Ave., Garland, TX 75040. Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH, at (972) 302-9992 for details or [wb9zph@gmail.com](mailto:wb9zph@gmail.com).

**Plano testing** is on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm-. Testing sessions are located at 3160 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX. If you have questions send e-mail to [ae5sg@arrl.net](mailto:ae5sg@arrl.net).

**Carrollton testing** sessions are sponsored by the Metrocrest Amateur Radio Society (MARS). Testing is held at the Carrollton Public Library, 4420 Josey Lane, 75010. Please contact Allan Batteiger at (972) 672-0278. (See [www.kb5a.org](http://www.kb5a.org) for details.)

**Sachse, Wylie, Murphy testing** sessions are sponsored by the Sachse ARA. Testing is held at 9:00am the second Saturday of the month at the East Fork Masonic Lodge, 508 Parker Rd., Wylie, TX, 75098. For more information call (214) 500-3472.

**St. Paul testing** sessions are sponsored by the PARK. Testing is held at 9:00am the third Saturday of the month at the St. Paul City Hall, 2505 Butcher's Block, St. Paul, TX, 75098. Please contact Kerry A. Weeks at (972) 442-1125.

**Other testing session** can be located online at: [www.dfwlist.org](http://www.dfwlist.org).

**Local Repeater—See <http://www.mckinneyarc.org> for additional repeaters.**

**Voice**

Dallas ARC (W5FC) 146.880 PL 110.9  
Denton (W5NGU) 146.920 PL 110.9  
Denton (W5NGU) 444.050 PL 110.9  
Fannin Cty (K5FRC) 145.470 PL 88.5  
Fannin Cty (K5FRC) 443.750 PL 100.0  
Garland (K5QHD) 146.660 PL 110.9  
Garland (K5QHD) 442.700 PL 110.9  
Grayson Cty (K5GCC) 147.000 PL 100.0  
Grayson Cty (K5GCC) 147.280 PL 107.2  
Grayson Cty (K5GCC) 444.750 PL 100.0  
McKny ARC (W5MRC) 146.740 PL 110.9  
Melissa (W5MRC) 443.200 PL 100.0  
NTXRA 145.350 PL 100.0  
NTXRA IRLP 442.575 PL 127.3  
Plano (K5PRK) 147.180 PL 107.2  
Plano (K5PRK) 444.250 PL 79.7

Richardson (K5RWK) 147.120 PL 110.9  
Rockwell (W5ROK) 441.875 PL 131.8  
Rockwall (KK5PP) 441.525 PL 141.3  
Rosston (WD5U) 145.490 PL 85.4  
Van Alstyne (W5VAL) 443.800 PL 103.5  
Wylie (W5GM) 442.100 PL 110.9

**Digital Modes**

**APRS**

National Freq 144.39 Simplex  
National Alt Freq 144.34 Simplex

**Winlink**

SW Collin Co 145.03 K5BAD-10  
SW Collin Co 145.03 W5RAE-10  
NE Collin Co 145.07 AE5IT-10  
NW Collin Co 145.07 KD5CTQ-10  
SE Collin Co 145.09 N5BYL-10  
SE Collin Co 145.09 KI5FU-10

SE Collin Co 145.09 K5PRK-10  
SE Collin Co 145.09 K5EEN-10  
**(Plano)\* D-Star**

Voice 441.575 (+5)  
Voice 1295.00 (-20)  
Data 1255.00

\*D-Star access is available through the WWW.K5PRK.Net website.

**W5NGU (Denton) D-Star**

Voice 147.450 (-1)  
Voice 442.925 (+5)  
Voice 1293.400 (-20)  
Data 1253.600

**K5TIT (Dallas) D-Star**

Voice 147.360 (+0.6)  
Voice 442.000 (+5)  
Voice 1293.000 (-20)