



The Shamrock

P.O.Box 4401
Midland, Texas 79704-4401
915-685-3372

Volume 19, No. 2

February 2001

Technician Class to begin February 13th at clubhouse

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Club members, please contact all potential candidates for the class possible. Everyone is welcome.

Fee: \$20.00 per person (Includes student book, handouts, and other materials used in class.)

For more information, please call:
Dewey Baucum, WB5CDD, 694-3162
Steve Hopkins, K5RS, 529-4003
John Wilder, Jr., WA5PFJ, 689-4914

Please call to make your reservations. This will help the instructors know the number students to expect. It will be very useful in planning.

MARC Meetings

Clubhouse - 7:30 P.M.

February 12, 2001

Marcus Pacheco will demonstrate ATV (Amateur slow scan Television).

February 26, 2001

Scot Johnson, KD5MHM, will demonstrate A.P.R.S.

MARC Happenings

February 13 - Technicians Class

April 7 ? - Guadalupe DXpedition

March 17-18 - St. Patrick Day Hamfest

President Pete Speaks, WB7AMP



Hello to everyone. Here it is already February, and I don't know where January went! I have been so busy, I don't know how I ever got anything done when I was working 60 hours a week. Well, it looks like I might go back to work consulting on oil and gas well completions and "work overs" starting this Wednesday. I should be over in New Mexico and will be until the job is over or complete. It remains to be seen how that is going to effect my position and president of the Midland Club. I will just have to see how this is going to work out.

I have resurrected my packet station recently and have been having some fun leaving messages and making a few keyboard to keyboard contacts with Ted, W5WTX, Dwayne, W5ZOX, Kevin, KD6IRL, and N5SXQ. Others are on, so maybe some more of the members will activate their packet stations again. I will sooner or later get APRS going. Also, I want to get going on PK31 and also want to try Heillscriber. I sure miss getting on RTTY and need to get that going again. There is lots of digital stuff going on, and I am missing out on some of the fun.

The time is flying by and Hamfest time is approaching really fast. So anything that you can think of that needs attention, please contact me or one of the other club members, so we can jump on it. The flyers have gone out, because I received mine in

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Stull from 1st column

the mail. When you talk to someone on the air, keep reminding everyone that the Hamfest will be the State Convention for the ARRL this year. I surely hope that it brings more hams out to our Hamfest, and continues the good St. Patrick Day Hamfest, that is so famous in our part of the state.

The Technician Class will be starting on February 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. I hope it is well attended. If you have some time and would like to help out with instruction at the classes, please contact Steve Hopkins, John Wilder, and Dewey Baucum. They will be glad to have your help. There is always room for instructors in these classes, so join in the fun. I always learned something, when I taught classes. because it made me study more.

It is time to close and wish you a good month. I hope you attend the club meetings held the second and fourth Monday nights at the clubhouse at 7:30 p. m.

So 73 and see you soon,

President Pete.

The Automatic Position Reporting System An Overview and Introduction

—By Arte Booten, N2ZRC
<n2zrc@arrl.net>

This APRS article was submitted by B. John McDaniel's, KE5PL. This is the 1st of 2 installments.

Your Editor feels that is considerable interest in APRS, so the decision was made to print both articles. Much information is presented.

Many of you have heard about a

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packet radio program called The Automatic Position Reporting System, (also called APRS.) It's a system which, unlike a BBS, node and DX cluster, uses an unconnected protocol to transmit your exact position, a symbol denoting the type of station you're running and a brief comment about it. It also uses keyboard-to-keyboard "chat", has direction-finding capabilities and much more.

How does it work? In its simplest form, you transmit a packet containing your callsign, exact latitude and longitude, information on your transmitter's power, antenna height, gain and pattern as well as a brief comment of your choosing, along with some symbols which make the system work. With this information your station appears graphically - on a map (or one in a series of many maps) on your computer's monitor. It'd also appear on the screens of other stations that are on frequency. Your station would similarly appear on theirs. Since APRS uses an UNCONNECTED protocol, on-air packets can be kept to a minimum.

Consider this: When you connect to your local node, using standard AX.25, you send a connect request to it. It'll acknowledge that packet, then send you a connected packet which you must then acknowledge. This same thing happens with each and every packet you, or the other station, send.

With APRS you need send only ONE packet to convey your information. If it's not received on the first transmission, APRS retransmits it, using a decaying time delay (that is, the second packet is sent eight seconds after the first, the third fifteen seconds later, the fourth half a minute later, the fifth a minute later, the sixth two minutes later etc. until, after two hours, you're only sending three packets

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February Programs

Hello Amateurs. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the programs that we have had. We have had Keith Wilson, KD5IRL, with PSK31, Discount Tire with John Curfew, Hot-dog Night, BG Specialty Oil Products with Mike Kelly, N.W.S tour with Robert Boyd, KC5ZJO. Marcus Pacheco, N5OMV, J-pole demonstration, Jack Sherman Chevrolet, Bill Brittan, and Midland Fire Department Demonstration of the new fire trucks and technology.

I certainly hope that everyone has enjoyed the automotive part of our programs. As radio operators we depend on our automobiles on daily base for Amateur radio.

In February we will have 2 very good programs that will take us back to Amateur radio.

On the 12th, we will have Marcus Pacheco, N5OMV, again, and he will give a demonstration on ATV Amateur slow scan Television.

On the 26th, we will have Scott Johnson, KD5MHM. He will give a demonstration on A.P.R.S.

The line up has been good for programs. Come join us for fellowship and fun. Check in to the nets for more details.

If you would like to do a program please get with me and I will add you to my list. My list is long, I do get cancellations and I can move anyone up the list.

2001 St. Patrick Day
Hamfest
and
West Section Convention

Saturday and Sunday
March 17th and 18th, 2001

Hollingsworth says "radio rage" hazardous to Ham Radio

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Entering his third year spearheading the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement effort, Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says "radio rage" could become a bigger danger to the future of Amateur Radio than rule breaking.

"It's the infighting and arguments and juvenile spats," Hollingsworth said this week. "That's going to come back to haunt us if we don't just grow up. It will do the service in, if the ham community doesn't put a stop to it."

Hollingsworth said that he's encouraged that the FCC's enforcement program has the support of "99.9%" of the amateur community and that the vast majority of hams follow the rules. But, he said that radio rage in the form of such things as on-air squabbles or frequency fights can degrade the bands just as quickly as outright rule breaking. "The FCC can't do anything about that," he said. "It's up to the amateur community."

Hollingsworth said that while much radio rage technically is not illegal, it reflects poorly on Amateur Radio and can balloon into an enforcement issue. More important, he said, rude or intemperate on-air behavior might provide just the sort of ammunition that an entity seeking additional spectrum will use against Amateur Radio.

Hollingsworth predicted that the departure January 19 of FCC Chairman William Kennard (see "FCC CHAIRMAN WILLIAM KENNARD RESIGNS" below) and the changing of the guard the White House the next day will not alter

See "rage" next column

"rage" from column 2

the course of the current amateur enforcement effort. He said he sees nothing but positive changes ahead. "I'm willing to bet my SX-115 that we won't miss a beat," he said, referring to one of his latest acquisitions of vintage ham gear, "as long as the amateur community lets it be known it still wants enforcement."

Hollingsworth said it was pressure from the ARRL and individual amateurs that prompted the resumption of amateur enforcement in 1998 during Kennard's tenure, "and it's the type of program that needs that continual pressure to keep it going," he added. Overall complaints are down, Hollingsworth said, "but no one can be complacent."

Packet Radio-Emergency Communication Training Net

Ares is currently conducting a training net on Thursday nights at 7:30, p.m. on 144.970. Dwayne Fox, W5ZOX, is net control using the call sign W5EOC. The Net uses Packet at 1200 Baud. There are two ways to check into the net. The first way to check into the net is to connect to station W5ZOX and leave a mail message for W5ZOX that you are checking into the net. The second way to check into the net is to connect to MIDTEX and enter "T" or talk, the options being designated "T(alk)" where you can enter either a "T" or "Talk". When MIDTEX is in talk mode everything you type is sent to the other stations in talk mode. To exit talk mode, type "\ex". To disconnect from MIDTEX, type "B(ye)". Typing "B" will also disconnect you from W5ZOX. At either station typing "H(elp)" will get you a help file.

MIDTEX is currently up and will continue to be up until the next Space Shuttle launch when it will be brought down to allow the repeater to carry the Shuttle audio. MIDTEX was put up courtesy of Pat England, KB5MBK, for which a warm "Thank you!" is in order. GDD will still be available if Midtex is

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an hour!) It makes more efficient use of the frequency.

APRS uses several different kinds of digipeaters in order to propagate beyond their immediate area. They use aliases such as RELAY, WIDE, TRACE, ECHO and GATE. There are also variations of WIDE and TRACE known as WIDEn-n and TRACEn-n. A RELAY station (the default setting) are usually base stations, and are used to digipeat low-power portable and mobile stations. They are an essential part of the APRS system as a whole which is why most versions of APRS default to it.

WIDE digipeaters retransmit packets addressed either to their specific MYCall or the generic WIDE to other local VHF stations and WIDEs. Some have the ability to change that generic WIDE to its own MYCall.

ECHO stations performs a similar function on HF. GATEs retransmit signals from HF to VHF. However, they should NEVER be used to retransmit from VHF to HF. This is because VHF APRS uses 1200-baud signals on 144.39 MHz in most parts of North America. HF APRS uses 10.151 MHz LSB, just inside the upper edge of the 30-meter band, which is limited to using a maximum of 300-baud.

When setting up APRS for your location, you'd set your digipath based on the situation at that QTH and where you want your packets to go. In using keyboard-to-keyboard communication (the only comms that use "ACK's") you can also set alternate digipeater paths. Not only does this direct your message via the shortest possible route, but it also reduces QRM.

The program also interfaces with popular weather stations, such as those made by Davis and Peet Brothers, showing real-time weather data at the touch of a key.

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The potential for this during SKYWARN situations is obvious. You'll get wind speed and direction, temperature, rainfall amounts by the hour and 24-hour period and, in some cases, barometric readings. Such weather data can also be entered manually if a station has the information but not the hardware.

There's also a Direction-Finding mode which can be used by stations with either a beam or omni antenna! When the "fox" transmits, stations can call, by voice (on another frequency) or keyboard beam headings and/or signal strength. Using the antenna gain figures for these stations, circles are drawn on the map. The "fox" will usually be located at the converge of these circles. If you have one of the many "doppler" antenna systems, they can also be used. If DX-ing is your thing, there's a "DX-mode" which also uses the UI protocol by simply monitoring the DX cluster frequency. As a new spot is posted, they appear on the map with their callsign, based on their pre-prefix. Obviously, since you're not connected to the cluster, it's not meant as a replacement to your normal AX.25 program, and you can't SEND messages, but you can receive them (the program will flag yours and display them when asked.) It's just another tool for your county- or country-hunting efforts.

If you have a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver with NMEA-0183 output this, too, can be utilized with amazing results! Your mobile or portable position can be regularly updated. Using a stand-alone tracker (including radios such as Kenwood's TH-D7a HT and TM-D700 mobile rig) you don't even need a computer. All you need is an H-T, TNC and a GPS! Think about the possibilities

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APRS from 2nd column

for such a setup in something like a marathon, walkathon or even for someone shadowing an important official.

The DOS version of APRS was written to be able to run on just about any PC clone from the latest Pentium IV down to a lowly 8086. Heck, I know several people that use it with a Hewlett-Packard HP-200 palmtop! Maps are available from a large-scale map of the whole world to extremely detailed street-level maps. It's lots of fun, has many ARES/RACES/SKYWARN uses and I'm sure you'll enjoy playing with it!

Some really simple basic instructions on getting aprs on the air now by Arte Booten, N2ZRC <n2zrc@arrl.net>

In order to start using APRS, you'll need the following equipment, much of which you may already own:

I. A two-meter transceiver. Neither CTCSS nor frequency agility is necessary. Lots of older rigs, particularly HT's, can be had for almost nothing at hamfests.

II. A TAPR-2 compatible Terminal Node Controller (TNC). This covers practically every TNC built for the past fifteen or so years. Kantronics, PacComm and AEA are popular brands to choose from. Older ones can also often be found on tables at a 'fest.

III. A computer. There are versions of APRS written for Macintosh, Windows, Linux, WindowsCE and the Palm OS. The DOS version, however, is able to run on practically *any* PC-compatible computer ... even ancient 8086's! These articles focus on APRSDos (which runs just fine under Win3.x, 9.x, NT and 2k and Linux (using dosemu), and the following descriptions are for installing it and getting it running on a PC.

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IV. Assorted cabling, power supply, antenna, etc.

V. The program. Simply point your browser at the archives of The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio organization (or use FTP), by going to: `ftp://ftp.tapr.org/aprssi/dosstuff/APRSdos/` and look for the latest version. It ought to be just large enough to be able to fit onto one floppy disk. While there, go up a few levels, then burrow down into the Maps/PCmaps area. You'll find a file there called "nynyc01.zip", which contains street-level maps of most of New York City made by the author of this article.

In this example I'll use the non-existent APRS version 9.99, which would be called "APRS999.zip." Substitute the appropriate file name for this.

If you use PkZip204, put the APRS disk into your floppy drive of choice (I'll call it drive A) then expand the APRS files, using the following commands on the hard drive of choice (C in this example):

```
Change to the root directory C:
\>CD\Make an appropriate
directory C:\>MD APRS
```

```
Change to this directory C:\>CD
\APRS
```

```
Switch to the A drive C:\>A:
```

```
Run PKUNZIP with directories
A:\>PKUNZIP -d APRS999.zip C:
\APRS
```

Don't forget to use that "-d" switch. This lets it create the necessary subdirectories. If using WINZIP, change to drive A and double-click on APRS999.zip, click the expand button, tell it where you want APRS to live and follow onscreen directions.

Make sure your TNC is in Terminal or Command mode (whatever it's called by the manufacturer.) At the C:\> prompt, go to your chosen APRS folder and invoke "APRS999.exe". If you're

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using Windows, just double-click on that file. This brings us to the LOGO screen. Enter your call and SSID, if any. Tell it which TNC you're using. Answer the other various questions. When you're done, the main map screen will appear.

Now press the arrow keys (or use your mouse) to bring the cursor to your approximate location (keep your eye on the upper left corner of the screen which shows latitude/longitude of the cursor.) Then press HOME to center the screen on it. Use the PgDN key to zoom in a few screens and tweak the cursor to your EXACT QTH. Once the cursor is at the right spot hit the HOME key again.

Press I(nput) M(y) P(osition) and confirm your lat/long. Then pick a symbol for yourself, type in a brief comment, and verify it. Once you press that "Y" you're essentially ready to go on the air. In it's most basic form, you're configured! Tune the radio to 144.39, hook it up and see what you can see. It might take a few minutes for other stations to appear (assuming there are some) but if you get a little impatient, try pressing X(mit) Q(uey) and give it a radius such as 64 to force position reports from others.

Look for stations whose symbol is a green star. THESE ARE THE WIDE DIGIPEATERS! Is there one near you? Now press the "D" key. If an asterisk (*) appears next to a callsign (hopefully that nearby WIDE), you hear it directly. Make a note of that nearby WIDE station's digipeater path.

Now you're going to set YOUR digipeater path. Press O(perations) E. If you heard that WIDE station directly, enter it's callsign and its ssid, if any. Follow this with a comma, then type in "WIDE". For

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example: "N2MH-15,WIDE" would be how I might enter it here in The Bronx, but the nearest WIDE to YOU is what YOU'RE looking for.

Next you want to set your Power-Height-Gain figures. Press I(nput) M(y) P(ower) and tell it how many watts you're using, the elevation of your antenna above AVERAGE terrain (look at a topographical map of your area,) it's gain in dBd and the antenna's directional pattern in degrees or 0 (zero)for an omnidirectional antenna.

Finally, set your Status Text by pressing I(nput) M(y) S(tatus) and typing in a short comment, different than what you used in your Position Text earlier. At this point, you're about as far as you need to go for now.

Arte Booten <n2zrc@arrl.net> AEC for Digital Services, NYC ARES/RACES

You are currently subscribed to aprssi as: ws5r@arrl.net
To unsubscribe send a blank email to leave-aprssi-19316H@lists.tapr.org
Questions regarding the SIG go to the SIG administrator: wallou@tapr.org

ARRL Board approves dues increase, alters Morse position

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Meeting in Irving, Texas, January 19 and 20, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues from \$34 to \$39 annually for full members younger than 65, and from \$28 to \$34 for full members 65 and older. The dues hike goes into effect July 1, 2001. The last ARRL dues increase was in July 1997. The dues increase resulted from a need to fund initiatives to expand the League's advocacy activities on behalf of Amateur Radio--including the defense of amateur spec

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Exciting Program given by the Midland Fire Dept.

On 22nd of January, the local fire department gave a program on their new fire trucks for the Midland Amateur Radio Club. The crowd was a record breaker of 43. This is the largest crowd since August 25th, 1997. The program certainly captured the attention of all age groups. Stephen Forbes, Chad Clark, Ryan Rose from fire station #3 talked to the membership about fire fighting, new technology, and new techniques. The new fire engine has on board computers that helps fight fires. Also, the newly designed fire engine has on board digital controls. These controls tell the fire fighters a lot about how their new engine operates. The fire fighters demonstrated their turn out gear and S.B.A. (Self contained breathing apparatus). This part of the program had the kid's attention. The kids got to try on the gear and get the feel of what it was like to wear fire fighting equipment.

I want to thank M . R. Meiner, Assistant Fire Chief, for allowing these guys to come out to give our membership an outstanding program.

Dwayne T. Fox, W5ZOX

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trum--and to enhance ARRL Headquarters' abilities to serve members during a period of projected deficits. The Board okayed a \$1 greater increase for seniors in an effort to narrow the dues gap, as more and more ARRL members fall into the senior category.

At the same time, the Board approved the hiring of development and sales and marketing professionals on the Headquarters staff as part of an overall plan to augment revenues.

"The ARRL carries out a lot of activities that no longer can be fully funded

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New to Packet? A primer....

Packet radio is a digital mode. It comes in varying speeds: 300 baud for HF, 1,200 baud for two meters and 9,600 baud primarily used on 70 cm. On the two meter band the radio sends out the signal at the rate of 1200 baud.

In order to operate packet, you will need a radio with an antenna system, computer (vintage or not), and a TNC (terminal node controller) or a soundcard/interface/software combination which performs the functions of the tnc. The tnc is basically a modem which handles the decoding of the signal received from the radio to the computer language and from the computer to the radio.

Some of the tnc's come with programming that allows them to operate as stand alone mail boxes. Most of the tnc's allow you to connect to the station by <call sign>-1 for access to the tnc mail box. Once connected to the station you should receive a menu from the other station showing you what your options are. Typing "H" will get you help file, "B" will disconnect you from the station, "L" will get you a list of the mail messages at the station, "S" <call sign> will allow you to send a message to another station, and "R" <message number> will allow you to read your mail.

If a station is running a "kiss" tnc all of the commands will be handled by the software on the computer. One station which is running a BayPac Modem and the program "BayCom" is KD5IRL, requires the commands to be preceded by "\". Other stations do not require any special characters to be transmitted to execute the command.

If a station is running Packet 6.1 See New Packet next column

See New Packet next column

New Packet from 2nd column

or 6.2 software "T" (talk) rings the bells to alert the other station operator that someone is connected to him and wished to chat. The software leaves the remote command mode and a conversation can be conducted with the station operator, if they are home. If no one answers the bells, the software will return to remote mode.

The stations offering mail service on a full time basis are: KB5MBK-1, WB7AMP-1, N5XSQ-1 and W5WTX

The stations offering mail service on a part time basis are:

KD5IRL, W5ZOX

A couple hints would include:

1. Always make sure that you are running your radio in simplex.
2. Make sure that you are not transmitting a tone (not necessary).
3. Always made sure that when you are finished running packet to turn off the TNC or shut down the software so that it can't beacon on the wrong frequency.

This is a basic primer for Packet Radio. For more information check out these web-sites:

WWW.PacketRadio.Com (various information, tnc wiring diagrams, software download site)
WWW.Tapr.Org (Tucson Arizona Packet Radio, the authority)
WWW.DXCluster.Org (Dx Cluster information and internet gateways)
WWW.AMPR.ORG (Internet gateways for international packet operation)
WWW.APRS.org, WWW.Findu.com (Compilation of Aprs Data)

Come join the fun and learn how to work packet or sharpen your skills on the Ares packet net on Thursday Night at 7:30 p.m. MIDTEX, 144.970 simplex.

—By Keith, KD5IRL

**St. Patrick Hamfest
March 17-18**

NETS

Big Bend Emergency Net meets at 8:30 A.M. (Central) Every Sunday Morning. The frequency is 3922.

The West Texas Connection Sunday Morning Net meets at 0900 (Central) every Sunday morning. The net is informal and open to all. Check in for local ham news and events. Midland frequency is 147.220, + offset, 88.5 tone or 444.100 + offset, 162.2 tone. Mike Smith, W5MLS, is Net Control.

The Southwest Lynx System Net meets at 12:00 noon, Sunday. The net meets at 145.130, - offset, 88.50 tone and 440.200, + offset, 162.2 tone. Dwayne Fox, W5ZOX is net control.

West Texas Amateur Radio Club Net, Odessa, meets each Monday at 9:00 P.M. The frequency is 145.470 with an 88.5 tone. Needs a Net Control.

Big Spring 10 Meter Net is at 8:00 P. M on Tuesday evening at 28.485 up or down a few.

Midland 2 Meter Net meets each Tuesday night at 9:00 P.M. on 147.300, offset: - 600 Mhz. Mike Smith, W5MLS is Net Control.

Ares Net meets each Wednesday night at 9:00 p.m. on 147.300, offset: -600 Mz. Dwayne T.Fox, W5ZOX, is Net Control.

ARES 70 Centimeters Net (West Texas & Southwest New Mexico) meets on Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. on 444.925 UHF with a 2146..2 tone. Net Control is Mark Smith, N5UNH.

New Net. Midland County ARES Packet Net meets on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on 144.970. Check-ins go through MIDTEX on the talk mode. No net control. Leave your check-ins at Dwayne's mail drop, W5ZOX-1. THERE WILL BE NIGHTS, WHEN NET CONTROL IS PRESENT.

Howard County Net meets each Thursday at 8:00 P.M. on 146.820.

Pay Your Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 2001, please do so.

February Birthdays



JOHN MYERS, 02, K5CUY
MURRAY NEECE, 26, K5MDM
DOUGLAS HARWOOD, 22,
K5MTX

TOM MARTIN, 20, K5TOM
TERRY TRAVIS, 08, K5WNH
LINDA WILLIAMS, 22, KB5EKV
STEVE POWER, 23, KB5ELQ
BILL VARDELL, 22, KB5OMG
TOM McCAIN, 22, KC5ETW
JEFF CARDWELL, 26, KC5KZM
RANDY AMONETTE, 22,

KC5NHX

JACKIE JORDAN, 03, KC5WNR
BARBARA GRAFF, 24, KD5HGC
WADE COTTON, 09, N5IST
RAY RANDALL, 02, N5MGH
EDWARD E MILLER, 11,

N5OHB

ELMER HOWARD, 26, N5QPF
REAGAN (RD) ROPER, 07,
N5UNJ

MILT HATHAWAY, 10, N5WCT
ROBIN McCORMACK, 08, SWL
ROBERT MCCUISTION, 22,
W5HY

CLYDE RON SCHWISOW, 29,
W5STC

JOHN WILDER III, 13, WA5PFI
MARKUS THOMERSON, 11,
WA5UFO

DAVID TURNER, 13, WB5TCW
MIKE JENNINGS, 07, WB5UKA

VE Testing Results



1/13

Kristi Lawless, Technician

William J. Simpson, Technician

Alicia P. Teague, N5SBC,
General

The Shamrock

The Shamrock is published monthly by the Midland Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 4401, Midland, Texas 79704-4401. The phone number is (915) 685-3372.

Articles and other information are solicited. Send articles to Dewey D. and Daphne Baucum, Co-Editors, 707 Spraberry Drive, Midland, Texas 79703-7060. Telephone number is (915) 694-3162. Call about format. My E-mail address is: cooldewey@apex2000.net.

Member of



Midland VE Team

Testing is conducted at the Red Cross Building on Elizabeth Street at 8:30 A.M. on the second Saturday of every month. (Other times may be arranged.) A total of \$10.00 will be charged for each element. All elements and code use the multiple choice format. Individual ear phones are used for code testing. Testing is always sponsored by the ARRL-VEC. For more information call Mitch Martin, WA5ZAP @ 561-9397, Email: wa5zap@apex2000.net or Sterling Talley, Contact Person, WB5G @ 684-6994, Email: sterling@apex2000.net.

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down.

If you need help setting up your packet station, there are several hams who will be happy to talk you through any problems. Keith Wilson, KD5IRL will be willing to help get you going. Just "hollar" at him on the radio, most mornings 7:30 to 8:00, 147.300.

cul, 73.... de KD5IRL, sk sk

Pay Your Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 2001, please do so.

Officers for 2000

R.L. "Pete" Stull, WB7AMP – President
306 E. 57th St., Odessa, TX 79762-3611
Home Phone: 362-6644
Work Phone: 686-6755
Email: WB7AMP@caprok.net

Dwayne Fox, W5ZOX - V. President
3707 Gaston Dr., Midland, TX 79703-6135
Phone: 699-4574

Email: w5zox@texascavers.com

Beverley Harwood, KC5BNT, Secretary
6100 S. Couty Rd, Midlnd, TX 79706-7700
Phone 686-1841

Email: shamrock109@home.com

C. A. Ross, KM5OK - Treasurer
3507 W. Louisiana Ave. Midland, TX
79703-5645 Phone: 697-5487

Ken Williams, K5JOG, Director
9700 S. County Rd., 79706-7812
Phone: 684-3738

Email: TELCOKEN@worldnet.att.net

Jim Reid, K5KUX – Director
3504 Douglas Ave., Midland, TX 79703-5016
Phone: 694-0725

Steve Hopkins, K5RS – Trustee
3511 Princeton Ave., 79703-5011
Phone: 915-520-4003
Email: k5rs@apex2000.net

The officers for 2000 will serve with the 2001 officers until after the Hamfest.

West Texas Section Manager

Charlie Royall, WB5T
915-944-0469
cnroyall@wcc.net

Dues & Morse from page 6

by dues or publication sales revenues," ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained. While voluntary contributions towards Amateur Radio advocacy are helping greatly, "we need to professionalize these activities if we are going to sustain them," he said.

Sumner said putting more emphasis on voluntary contributions was "the only route to financial security" for the ARRL. Among ARRL programs that will rely heavily on voluntary contributions is "The Big Project" educational initiative proposed last year by ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP.

The Board also revised its position on whether Morse code proficiency should continue to be an international licensing requirement for operation below 30 MHz. The Board approved a resolution that "recognizes and accepts" that the Morse requirement likely will be dropped from Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations at the 2003 World Radio communication Conference. But the Board held the line on retaining a domestic Morse requirement, saying that each country should be allowed to determine for itself whether it wants to have a Morse requirement.

The Board declared that Morse code deserves continued support as "an important operating mode" as well as in terms of spectrum and "should be retained as a testing element in the US." The resolution also calls on ARRL Headquarters staff to "develop a

Officers for 2001

Joe Coldewey, KK5ZG - President
4510 Fairbanks Dr, Midland. TX 79707-4314

Phone: 697-7846

Email: joecl@juno.com

Dwayne Fox, W5ZOX - Vice President
3707 Gaston Dr., Midland, TX 79703-6135
Phone: 699-4574

Email: w5zox@texascavers.com

Doug Salyers, KB5TUN, Secretary
5501 E. HWY 80 TRLR 52, Midland, TX
79701-4420

Phone: 684-5068

Robert Boyd, KC5ZJO, Treasurer
2900 Purple Sage Tr., Midland, TX 79705-2504

Home Phone: 689-6355

Work Phone: 563-5006

Pete Stull, WB7AMP - Director
306 E. 57th St., Odessa, TX 79762-3611
Home Phone: 362-6644

Email: wb7amp@caprok.net

Ted Harwood, W5WTX, Director
6100 S. County Rd. 1169, Midland, TX
79706-7700

Telephone: 686-1841

Ham Shack Phone: 570-1987

Email: shamrock109@home.com

Ken Williams, K5JOG - Director
9700 S. County Rd., 79706-7812
Phone: 684-3738

TELCOKEN@worldnet.att.net

Steve Hopkins, K5RS - Trustee
3511 Princeton Ave., 79703-5011
Phone: 915-520-4003

Email: k5rs@apex2000.net

program designed to promote the use of Morse."



Midland Amateur Radio Club Application Form

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address _____ ARRL Member _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Do you wish to purchase a speed call ? _____

Names and Calls of Additional Family Members:

Number of Years _____ X \$15.00 _____

Addl Members X Years X \$3.00 _____

Speed Call at \$5.00(Optional) _____

Make checks Payable to Midland Amateur Radio Club. Thank You

and Send TO

P O BOX 4401 MIDLAND TX 79704-4401

Total Enclosed: _____