



NEWS



From the President's Desk

It's a month late, but let me be the last to wish you all a Happy New Year! I hope that 2007 is going well for each of you. Personally, I need a better year than 2006 proved to be, and fortunately it's starting out great.

I hope you have all made plans to join us in Midland on Saturday, March 10, for the 52nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest, where we will also be holding the 2007 Society Winter Meeting. We haven't been to West Texas in a long time, so I'm hopeful for a good turnout for both the hamfest and our meeting. Check out hamfest.w5qgg.org for more information on the event.

We recently submitted our repeater information to the ARRL for inclusion in the 2007 Repeater Directory, which should be available in a few months. As always, if the information for your repeater coordination is incorrect, then please let your Zone Coordinator know so we can correct it. Please check our website to determine who your Zone Coordinator is and to obtain their contact information. We have had some changes recently in personnel so be sure to check that you are sending your information to the correct person.

Finally, be on the lookout for the survey that should be arriving soon. With all the discussion the past couple of years about voting and elections, your input is very important to us to help us make proposals back to the membership. Please respond as soon as possible!

73's

John Johnson N5NH

President, Texas VHF-FM Society, 2006-2007



**52nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest
ARRL West Texas Section Convention and Texas
VHF-FM Society Winter Meeting
March 10th, 2007
Midland Lions Club / 200 Plaza Ave. /
Midland, Texas**

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(date after call is year of term expiration)

The Secretary's Report

Happy New Year Folks,

For many, the FCC has given an early Christmas gift - the elimination of Element 1 or morse code testing as part of its licensing requirements. For some, it is as if the grinch has ruined everything. No matter what your opinion on the matter is, one thing is clear; we are experiencing changes to our hobby.

Change can be a good thing. Some folks don't like change simply because it upsets the norm, the status quo as they see it. No matter what the cause or outcome is, they won't like it. The result of this tends to be a negative message that can impact first impressions of those seeking to take advantage of change.

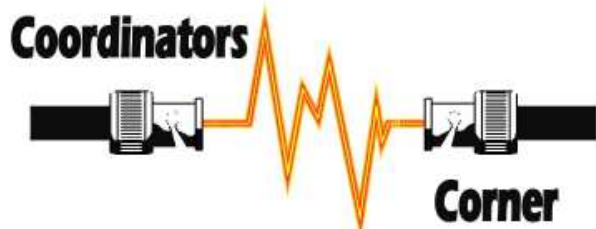
I prefer to see the positive side of change. As an old school Extra class, I had to pass my tests in front of the FCC. I worked hard for my license and am proud of what I had done so long ago. Morse code for me is simply a second language. For many years it was the only mode my radios could do so I focused on making the best of it. I excelled at it and had a lot of fun in the process.

These recent changes by the FCC are an opportunity to further build our ranks. I have heard many negative comments about the elimination of Element 1. "The HF bands will be ruined". "We are destined to become another 11 meters". The list goes on. I have also heard lots of positive comments from licensees who embrace this change and more importantly, new licensees. Some of these prospective licensees are very bright technical minds who for whatever reason, were not interested in learning morse in order to get a license.

Yes, I believe change is a good thing. Morse code will never fade from my operating skill set but that is my choice. Look around us and see that morse is losing support from governments around the world. It is time to move on. We can make this an easy transition by putting our best foot forward, making a good first impression on newcomers and help guide them towards being good operators. If we don't do it, who will?

While we're out there trying to make good impressions, would those of you who send complaint email to the board and membership at large please refrain from using anonymous email accounts? Your cause would be so much better received if your approach were different. Our contact information is on the Society web page. Feel free to contact me directly but please remember that I deserve to know who is complaining. Our job is to serve the membership. I looked up anonymous in the membership database and saw no listing.

May 2007 be kind to us all, 73 de na6m



Notes from the State Frequency Coordinator

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB

I would like to thank everyone for responding to the individual zone coordinators and returning the annual repeater renewals. This is a very important part of being a trustee because it helps the Society to protect your channel. Without the annual renewal process we do not know if your system is active and if any of the parameters have changed. It also gives the trustee the opportunity to make any changes that would be reflected in the ARRL Repeater Directory and the annual Society Repeater Directory. I would like to thank Craig Green - KV5E, Paul Finch - WB5IDM, Paul Gilbert - KE5ZW and Eric Schmidt - KA5WMY for their effort toward making this directory submission a success.

This year we have 1,495 coordinated systems. This is up approximately 100 from last year. We have some requests on the waiting list in the metro areas of Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston, but otherwise if a coordination is requested, a channel is issued to a prospective trustee to activate. There will be more in future newsletters about the distribution of coordinated system between the various bands and geographies.

The waiting list is listed on the website. Since this is a manual process, it is not listed the day that a trustee goes on the waiting list, but within 45 days or so. That is also the same for the online directory. It is a manual process and not automatically updated when a trustee changes status from construction to active.

I would like to thank Michael Lay - N5PTN for his work as the Zone 3 and Zone 4 Coordinator for the last several months. Eric Schmidt - KA5WMY has taken the Zone 3 function and Paul Gilbert - KE5ZW has taken the Zone 4 function. If there is anything outstanding that has not been answered, please redirect the correspondence to the new coordinators.

Please keep the Zone Coordinators informed of any changes about coordinated systems. The Society can only help protect systems with good information. We need input from trustees so that we can make good assignments to prospective trustees.

Thank you all for helping us make the data accurate.

PSB

Texas VHF-FM Society Standing Committees

Frequency coordination:	Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Database Committee:	Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY
Technical Committee:	Kent Britain, WA5VJB
Trustee (W5OGZ):	Jay Maynard, K5ZC
Newsletter Editor:	Dave Davis, WB5WIA

Frequency Coordinators

State Frequency Coordinator

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fax: 817-354-7736
coord@txvhffm.org

Zone 1, Northeast Texas

All bands except 440 Mhz

Craig Green - KV5E
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Mesquite, TX 75150
972-270-8234
zone1-2m@txvhffm.org

Zone 1, Northeast Texas 440Mhz

Paul Finch - WB5IDM
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Azle, TX 76020
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Zone 2, Southeast Texas

Zone 3, South Texas

Eric Schmidt - KA5WMY
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Angleton, TX 77515
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zone2@txvhffm.org

Zone 4, Central Texas

Zone 5, West Texas

Paul Gilbert - KE5ZW
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Mexican Liaison:

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Link Frequencies

420Mhz, 900Mhz, 1.2Ghz

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Notes from Zone 2 & 3 – Spring 2007

We've had lots of new repeater activity recently in South Texas. Although D-STAR capable repeaters have been on the air in the Dallas area for several years, it is only lately that the technology has filtered down to the Houston metro area. Recently we have had the addition of a new VHF digital repeater in Magnolia using the new D-STAR format thanks to the efforts of W5JSC. This repeater went live on 11/4/06 with a provisional coordination with a 146.450 MHz output/ 147.450 MHz input, and club callsign of KE5FLJ. We didn't want to stall this new technology for the lack of a 2m frequency, so this 1 MHz split, high in/low out pair is being used on a provisional basis until the specific band plan changes can be ironed out to accommodate the new digital formats. Trustees of current 2m repeaters are also welcome to change to the D-STAR digital format if they desire, please contact me for more details. There are several other D-STAR capable systems in the planning stages in and around the Zone 2 area on 2m, 70 cm, and 23 cm for both voice and high speed data. Stay tuned for more details as these systems develop.

The following repeaters newly coordinated since the last issue of the NEWS. A repeater is not listed as coordinated until the on-air status form is received after a construction permit has been issued, so please return your on-air status notification if your repeater is on the air and you have an outstanding construction permit. In addition to these new coordinations, there are currently twenty active construction permit applications in Zone 2 & 3.

Zone 2 & 3 Newly Coordinated Repeaters between 8/31/06 and 2/5/07

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Anahuac	145.250	144.650	KK5XQ	OE192.8SNP
Sugarland	444.475	449.475	W5KDE	OE173.8
Katy	441.975	446.975	W5EMR	O123.0
Magnolia	146.450	147.450	KE5LFJ	D-STAR
Refugio	147.180	147.780	AD5TD	OE136.5
Refugio	443.875	448.875	AD5TD	O103.5

The following is the waiting list for Zone 2. The waiting list in Zone 2 is currently for 2m only, and there are pairs available on all other bands. There is currently no waiting list for Zone 3. A detailed explanation of the waiting list description and process appears on the Society website. A reminder that 145.250 is a shared, non-protected pair that can often be utilized until a protected pair becomes available. Repeaters on 145.250 are coordinated, but there are no specific spacing requirements. PL is required on the input and output to minimize co-channel interference.

Zone 2 Coordination Waiting List

	Callsign	City	Band	Application Date
1	W5JSC	Magnolia	2m	5/11/2004
2	KK5XQ	Baytown	2m	1/28/2005
3	KW5O	Conroe	2m	3/29/2005

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or are interested in constructing a repeater in Zone 2 or 3. I welcome your feedback on any improvements that I can make to better serve our members & trustees. My contact information is listed in the front of the newsletter and on our website. A quick reminder: If you send me an email and you do not receive a response within 24 hours, it is likely that it was caught by a spam filter. Phone calls are always welcome as well.

73,

Eric Schmidt

KA5WMY

Zone 2 & 3 Frequency Coordinator

Greetings to all and this will be a condensed report for Zone 1 all bands except 440.

The waiting list for Zone 1 for 2 meters has been updated and is posted on the Texas VHF FM Society website. Please remember that a waiting list is not just a chronological order of applications, but the technical parameters that affect co-channel users and the Standards of Coordination are applicable. This sometimes results in a Construction Permit being issued from a later dated application as a result of that application meeting the requirements whereas an earlier application may not. Please have patience as additional frequency pairs become available in the future.

I had planned to have some expositional data showing coverage plots to illustrate the frequency congestion in the metropolitan area of Zone 1, but the data is not ready at the time of publication. I will have this technical and very illustrative information in the next newsletter.

DStar activity is growing in the DFW area as the N5DA VHF repeater on 145.150 is now DStar. This was an existing FM repeater that was converted to DStar. I believe that DStar and P25 narrow band emissions offer significant advantages for spectral efficiency and with voluntary cooperation will help to create additional frequency pairs for digital repeaters in the very congested urban environs of Zone 1.

I am also investing additional time to help clear repeater pairs no longer in usage or where the trustee(s) may have passed away or moved. I will have more to say on this in the next newsletter article.

73,

Craig A. Green KV5E

Zone 1 All bands but 440 Coordinator Texas VHF FM Society

Greetings from South Texas.....

Things in South Texas appear to be operating very well...Plans are being made for the Storm season...Individuals are checking out their equipment as well as doing maintenance of their repeaters...this should be an on going procedure, because we never know when we will be called upon to provide communications.

The Driscoll Childrens Hospital, Corpus Christi, has been busy putting the finishing touches on their new repeater...It has both IRLP and ECO on it. It is a very good operation. Several area repeater owners are looking for tower sites. The Zone is beginning to receive more and more repeaters, as well as APRS operations.

Please contact me if I may be of any assistance.

Bob Lobaugh/W5JYJ

Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ

some Bio info:

Been in Amateur radio since 1992, currently a General. Repeater owner and trustee. Builder & maintainer of several other repeaters. Employed as a Broadcast Engineer with local NBC affiliate in Central Texas. Currently serve as the ARES EC for Bell County. CERT member with City of Temple and Bell County groups. Communications Reservist for Bell County EOC. ARRL & W5YI VE. member of City of Temple's Public Safety Advisory Board. Recently built and responsible for a 14 Hospital Amateur radio network (voice & packet) that covers a 7 county region.

Enjoy serving the Texas VHF-FM Society. Hope to continue to for a few years. I am open minded and will Listen to and for suggestions on how to make the Society better, stronger and serve the membership at its best.

Hope to see everyone in Midland.

Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ

I am back coordinating Zone 4 as well as Zone 5. I will be sending out renewals this month. I have them printed, and am stuffing them into envelopes for mailing.

I have ON-AIR CHECKED EVERY coordination in Zone 4 that I can reach from a 300 foot tower with a commercial radio and 100 watts.

That's pretty much all of Zone 4 except the far western reaches. I will be on air checking them in the next few weeks.

There are LOTS of systems off the air and some folks will be receiving special letters rather than renewals.

We have folks that want to place systems on the air in areas that frequencies are not open....SOOOOOO...

If you have a system that is not on the air, PLEASE, turn in the frequency voluntarily!

I plan to be at the Midland Hamfest in March and will have the renewals with me.

My primary goal for '07 is to clean up Zones 4 and 5 from off air systems.

In Service, Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW Zone 4 and 5 Frequency Coordinator

Meeting Notices:



The next scheduled board meeting for the Texas VHF-FM Society will be held in conjunction with the Midland Hamfest, on March 10, 2007. The time and specific meeting location will be determined that day due to the scheduling of the facilities. The board will conduct such business as necessary in both an open and a closed session.

There will be a board meeting at Hamcom, in Plano, in June, and the Summer meeting will be in Austin in conjunction with Summerfest.

52nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest

ARRL West Texas Section Convention and Texas VHF-FM Society Winter Meeting

**March 10th, 2007
Midland Lions Club
200 Plaza Ave.
Midland, Texas**

In 2007 the Midland Amateur Radio Club will be giving away over \$1400 in Cash & Prizes!

**But You Can't Win If You Don't Register!
You Do NOT Have to be Present to Win the
Pre-registration Prize or Grand Prizes!
Pre-registration Prize
\$200 Cash**

To Be Given Away at 9:00 am Saturday Morning!

**1st Grand Prize
Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver
2nd Grand Prize
Yaesu FT-7800R 2m/70cm Dual Band Mobile
3rd Grand Prize
Yaesu VX-2R Dual Band HT**



Well, our March 10th meeting in Midland is fast approaching. I am looking forward to seeing old faces and meeting all the members I can. In my last Newsletter column I asked for input from members regarding what you perceive to be wrong with the Society. I did not get a single response. I can't assume that means everyone is happy. Perhaps we can have "offline" discussions in Midland if you have any issues of which I need to be made aware. See you there.

Jim Hester / K5HTK K5htk@suddenlink.net

BOB Meeting Minutes - 7 Oct 2006

Directors present: Dave Davis Johnson Herman Hester Lobaugh Petit Stennett Directors absent:

Hugh Davis

Meeting was called to order at 1307 by President Johnson who presented the agenda as follows:

Director's Reports

Winter Meeting Location

Appoint a new director to replace Pat

Absentee Balloting and Survey

Database Committee Updates

Coordination Committee Updates

NDA Status

The agenda was accepted by the directors.

Publications Committee - Director Davis We sent out a 22 page newsletter. Davis asked if everyone received it and the notification that it went out. Director Lobaugh indicated that he had not. Director Davis indicated that the Society needs to send out another newsletter before the Winter Meeting. Discussion followed concerning the timing of the newsletter delivery.

Treasurer's Report - Director Stennett Director Stennett said that the Society has \$5,152.90 in the general fund and \$36,014.62 in the life membership fund for a grand total of \$43,169.79. Stennett noted that he has received a few requests for life membership badges and has written three checks for expense reimbursements.

Secretary's Report - Director Stennett Director Stennett said he has been going through the membership database, cleaning it up and verifying member information with the FCC database. Stennett noted that membership is down, noting that over 320 members have not renewed in 2006. Stennett said he has been adding email addresses to the membership database as he finds them and suggested that the Society sends out an email or regular mail to expired members to solicit their continued support. Director Davis suggested that the Society combine the newsletter email list and the Society membership list. President Johnson said that with the Net Post service through the Post Office, sending a postcard would be very easy. Director Stennett said that in discussing the membership situation with former Director Bancook, he pointed out that the Austin Summerfest did not take in membership dues on behalf of the Society this year which may be a contributing factor. President Johnson said that the last Net Post run had resulted in a number of returns due to bad addresses. Johnson agreed to forward them to Director Stennett. Director Herman asked about the costs associated with using the Net Post System. Discussion followed. Director Davis made a motion that the Society spend up to 50 cents per member to send out a letter to expired members who have not renewed in the last 2 years, asking for their continued support. Motion was seconded by Director Herman. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Director Lobaugh reported that he is aware of a number of repeaters that are off the air in South Texas but remain listed in the coordination database. Lobaugh went on to say that one particular machine has not been on the air for 10 years but it remains listed. He suggests that the database be cleaned up. Director Davis asked if there folks waiting for a channel where the paper repeaters were located. Lobaugh replied that he was not aware of anyone waiting for a channel and added that Zone 3 coordinator Michael Lay has been doing a fine job for South Texas. Zone 2 Coordinator Eric Schmidt said that the Society does have a process for handling this. There is a form on the Society web site that allows any ham to report a repeater system that is off the air to the coordination committee. The committee needs this form submitted in order to take any action. Discussion followed.

Winter Meeting Location President Johnson said that he believes the Society has a standing invitation to return to San Antonio, early in January. Johnson said he has checked around and noted that the Midland meeting is March 10th, there is a meeting in Orange on February 24th, a meeting in Georgetown some time in February but it looked pretty small and was real close to Austin. He continued that there may be a meeting in Harlingen as well as Bastrop but was unsure of the dates. A ham swap in Irving on the same day as the Midland swap and finally, Corpus at an undetermined date. Discussion followed. Director Davis suggested that a couple of board members talk to the organizers of the Midland and Orange events to see about having the Winter Meeting. Director Herman agreed to talk to the folks at Orange. Director Hester agreed to talk to the folks at Midland. They will report back to the board following their discussion.

Director Appointment: President Johnson said that Director England shortly after the Summerfest due his work load increasing quite a bit. Johnson said that are two candidates, Charles Kosman, WB2NQV and Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ. President Johnson introduced the candidates and asked them to address the board. Following their speeches, questions and answers, the board voted to fill the vacancy left by former director England. Gerald Richmond was voted in to complete England's term.

Absentee Balloting and Survey: President Johnson said that he needs to get the absentee balloting survey finished and delivered to the board for review. He said the survey needs to ask the membership for their views on the various ways to implement absentee balloting or vote by mail. He reminded the board that there is still a mandate to look at districting and voting in directors based on district. Discussion followed. President Johnson agreed to send the survey to the board for comment in the coming weeks. New Business Charlie Kosman suggested that the Society should consider allowing the meetings to be recorded and made available to recognized news media so that the Society has a point of reference in case something gets taken out of context. Director Davis said that while the Secretary is allowed to record the meetings, the recordings are at his discretion and are for the purpose of creating the minutes. To do something more of a production suitable for news media would require a more elaborate approach. He added that the Society typically does not post signs warning participants that a recording will be made. Participants need to be advised that by entering the meeting, they thereby give their consent to being recorded. President Johnson said that he would support a change to the bylaws that require anyone who wants to record the meetings to obtain authorization from the board. Director Davis said that he thinks the Society should record the meetings and post them in their entirety on the Society web site. Director Herman said he was in favor of posting the entire meetings. Director Stennett said he was in favor of posting the entire meetings. Director Davis made a motion that the Society commission an official recording of the general meetings and post them to the Society's web site, and to table the motion. Director Stennett seconded. Vote followed. Motion passed, six in favor, one opposed one abstained.

Non Disclosure Agreement: President Johnson said that he needs an electronic copy of the proposed agreement. Director Lobaugh said he would like to see a copy of it as well. Director Herman made a motion to table the NDA Agreement Discussion. Seconded by Director Davis. Motion passed.

Database Committee Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY, Zone 2 Frequency Coordinator and Database Committee Chairman told the board that on August 26th, he, Steve Hicks - N5AC, Ronnie Franklin - WD5GIC met in Dallas to discuss the status of the online database. They went through the requirements

and 15 pages of specifications. Eric said he was still writing up the notes from the meeting and would get them to President Johnson. Eric asked about the money approved for expenditure at the last winter meeting and if it was still available. Director Stennett said that \$1000 was approved for expenditure by the membership at the winter meeting. The board reaffirmed approval for Eric to spend the money on the database project. Discussion followed on this topic as well as RadioSoft and Comstudy. President Johnson asked Director Stennett to send the documentation for ComStudy to Steve Hicks.

Coordination Committee: President Johnson said that he received an email from State Frequency Chairman Paul Baumgardner that said annual renewals have gone out. The update to the ARRL directory will go out the first week of January. Paul mentioned a conflict with the a repeater club in the Houston area that Eric Schmidt has been dealing with. Eric Schmidt said that two members claim to be president of the club and both have submitted trustee change forms for the club repeater and are trying to get him as Zone 2 Coordinator to decide who is the trustee. Eric says the Society will not decide who their club membership is. Director Stennett asked if the repeater has a club call and if so, who the FCC believes the trustee is. Eric said that he had not looked into that matter. SFC Paul also reported in his email to President Johnson that all coordinators are working and that there are currently no personnel issues. Paul asked for the board to approve an interim band plan change for the accommodation of D-Star and P25 repeaters using 1 MHz splits. Eric Schmidt explained that the Coordination Committee has been issuing on an interim basis, coordination for these systems in the upper 50 kHz of the VHF simplex spectrum, using 1 MHz split with 10 kHz channel spacing. President Johnson asked if simplex channels were being used for this on UHF. Eric responded there has not because spectrum has been available. Director Davis asked if it would be appropriate for the board to pass a temporary measure to approve this change to the band plan and asked for how long. Eric Schmidt suggested 2 years. Discussion followed. Director Davis made a motion to allow the Frequency Coordination Committee to coordinate digital repeater systems on the following five pairs:

- 146.450/147.450 MHz
- 146.460/147.460 MHz
- 146.470/147.470 MHz
- 146.480/147.480 MHz
- 146.490/147.490 MHz

On a 2 year interim basis while a formal band plan is proposed and ratified. These coordination's will protect existing analog systems with regard to interference and spacing issues and will not be used to coordinate analog systems. Digital systems will be coordinated on the traditional repeater channels where practical. Motion was seconded by Director Herman. Motion passed. Deadline for adopting formal changes to the band plan: October 7th 2008.

Motion to adjourn made by Director Davis. Seconded by Director Herman.

Meeting was adjourned at 15:03