



September

2023



Mic & Key



Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club
923 Boston Ave, Nederland, TX

W5SSV

CLUB NET is on Wednesday at 8:00 pm on the Club Repeater 145.470, - offset, pl: 103.5

ARES Net Immediately Follows the Club Net on Determined Frequency

ARES Dist 9 WinLink Digital Check In on First Week of the Month

*****NEXT ARES MEETING: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 @ 6:00 pm*****

---NEXT CLUB MEETING: Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 @ 7:00 pm---

Mid/South County HAMs meet for Saturday Breakfast at La Fiesta on Nederland Ave near Hwy 366

Orange Area HAMs meet for breakfast on the 3rd Saturday at Denny's, 7112 IH-10 West in Orange



CHECK OUT THE JCARC WEBSITE PAGE:

Be sure and visit the Club's Website @ www.w5ssv.com.

CHECK OUT THE JCARC FACEBOOK PAGE:

Be sure and visit the Club's FaceBook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/990382200983839/>

CHECK OUT THE NEW JCARC YOUTUBE PAGE:

Be sure and visit the Club's YouTube Page at: [W5SSV - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW5SSV)

President	Chuck Vincent, KB5NBJ	Kb5nbj@aol.com	409-540-0477
Vice President	Kirk Mahaney, N5WKM	n5wkm06@gmail.com	409-718-5047
Treasurer	"Kayo" Robert Harlow, K5AKO	rharlow@gt.rr.com	409-719-8898
Secretary	Randy Leftwich, K5RWL	rwleftwich@aol.com	409-466-5828



Meeting Minutes, August 08, 2023

A quorum being present, President Chuck Vincent [KB5NBJ] called the General Meeting to order at 7:14 pm. Self-Introductions were made by all present.

Secretary's Report – Jeff Simmons [KI5NOH] made a motion to accept the minutes from July 11, 2023 as published. The motion was seconded by Felix Kneuper [WB5NED]. The motion carried.

VP Kirk Mahaney [N5WKM] made the Treasurer's report. Balance on hand \$9,941.59. A motion was made by Glen Rose [KI5TXY] to approve the Treasurer's report of August 8, 2023. Jeff Simmons [KI5NOH] seconded the motion and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. None.

KIRK'S NEWS BITS:

1. The Short Wave Modernization Coalition petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 – 25 MHz range with up to 20 KW, including in bands immediately adjacent to spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is treating the petition as a subject of concern for its members and the greater Amateur Radio Service.
2. ARRL Dues are going up this year, QST is going to be Digital with the membership unless you are willing to pay for the printed version. Life Memberships on hold.
3. The Fox was found by Andrew Downing WB5TAD and Aiden Downing, KG5PCA.

STEVE'S SHOW AND TELL:

Steve Gomez [KE5O] brought various pieces of equipment and showed a short video on Cold War era emergency communications for Civil Defense including the Conelrad system

NEW BUSINESS:

None discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next Fox Hunt, VE Testing and Tailgate sale at the JCARC clubhouse will be October 7, 2023.
- The upcoming annular "ring of fire" eclipse was discussed. It will be on October 14, 2023 in the morning with the best viewing depending on your location. The complete eclipse will cross West, Central, and South Texas. A partial eclipse will be visible here.
- The QCWA will next meet at the Schooner on August 19, 2023
- Sabine Pass Lighthouse was activated for National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend August 5-6, 2023 by Verne King [W5QDA], Glen Rose [KI5TXY], and Bob Rose [W5RJR]. The activation was discussed and Bob Rose described the efforts to obtain permission to enter the Chenier LNG plant perimeter to get to the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. Bob Rose provided an article he had written concerning the activation.

Motion to adjourn made by Rocky Wilson [N5MTX] motion seconded by Felix Kneuper [WB5NED]. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned 8:20 p.m. by Chuck Vincent.

Members Present: Clubhouse: 19

Zoom: 12

Guests: 0

Total: 31

Signed: Randy Leftwich, K5RWL

ARES MEETING DISCUSSION:

- August WINLINK Exercise discussed. 9 checked in.
- Texas HF RACES Net will be held August 12, 2023 4:00 p.m. District 15 [our district] will be primary Net Control. Net will be on 40-meters. Texas Races peer to peer WINLINK will run for two hours prior to the Texas Races HF Net on SSB.
- EMCOMM Training Thursday will run Thursday August 10. Intermediate level exercise. This is world wide training. We are in Region 6. Our ETO is ETO-06.
- ARES Texas Net on 7.285 MHz on Monday Nights at 7:30 p.m. We are in District 9.
- Hurricane Season is upon us. Get your radios and Go Kits ready. Make sure you take care of your home situations first.
- Kirk [N5WKM] discussed WINLINK Hybrid Radio Only mode.



ARES & RACES INFO

2023 UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

September 09	BARC TailGate Sale, VE Test
October 07	TailGate Sale, VE Test, FoxHunt
October 21-22	BSA Jamboree on the Air
October 21-22	Fall Support Your Parks On The Air
October 28	Tour de Groves
November 04	Lighthouse Run 1K, 5K, 10K Cameron Beach
November 20	BARC VE Testing 6PM
December 01-02	SkyWarn Recognition Day 6:00pm-6:00pm (12-1 00:00-24:00UTC)
December 12	HAM Christmas Party

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW JEFFERSON COUNTY ARES WEBSITE AT:

www.jctxares.org

ARES Digital Nets on about 1st of the Month

STX ARES send Winlink email to Richard Driscoll, KD5URB &

District 9 ARES send Winlink email to Kirk Mahaney, N5WKM

Give info of what Winlink mode you are using and call sign of node used.

HAMFESTS:

53rd Queen Wilhelmina Hamfest

Sponsor: Queen Wilhelmina Hamfest Association

Date: Friday September 8, 2023 & Saturday September 9, 2023

Location: Queen Wilhelmina State Park, 3877 Highway 88 West, Mena, AR 71953

Talk-In: 146.790 tone 100

Website: <http://www.menahamfest.net/>

Jackson County MS Hamfest

Sponsor: Jackson County Mississippi Amateur Radio Association

Date: September 16, 2023

Location: St Martin Community Center, 15008 Lemoyne Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39530

Website: <http://jcmsara.org/hamfest/>

Talk-In: 145.110 tone 123.0

From The Beaumont Club

The Beaumont Amateur Radio Club will have their next meeting on Monday, September 25th, at North End Baptist at 5115 Eastex Freeway at Odom Road. Social Time starts at 6pm and meeting at 7:00 pm. ALL ARE INVITED!!! Our Club Net is on Thursday evening at 7:30 pm on 146.700 neg offset with pl tone of 107.2. EchoLink is available for use. Also the 146.760 and 444.700 repeaters are on line and there to be used. Starting April 24th, we will be doing VE testing at 6pm before the meetings every other month. IE: April, July, September & November. Please come join us. Check out our website at: www.qsl.net/w5rin.

From The Orange County Club

The Orange Amateur Radio Club will have their next meeting on Friday, October 6th at the Red Cross Chapter House in Orange at 3901 IH10 East at MLK. ARES Meeting Starts at 6:00 pm and the Club Meeting Starts at 7:00 pm. PLEASE JOIN US!!! Our club net is Mon-Thur at 6:30pm on 147.180 positive offset with a pl tone of 103.5. Remember our HAM Radio Breakfast Meeting at Denny's, 7112 IH10 West in Orange on the THIRD Saturday of the month at 8:30am. Hope to see you there!!! Check out our webpage at: www.qsl.net/w5nd.

From The Lakes Area Club

The Lakes Area Club will have their next meeting on Thursday, September 28th at the Bell Field, Jasper Airport in Jasper at 7:00pm. PLEASE JOIN US!!!! Our Club Net is on Tuesday Evenings at 8:00pm on 147.000 neg offset and pl tone of 118.8. EchoLink is available for use. Please check our webpage at: www.w5jas.org..... For the latest info.

From The Tyler County Amateur Radio Association

The Tyler County Amateur Radio Association meets the first Thursday, September 7th at 7:00pm at the VFW Hall located at 301 Veterans Way. Veterans way is the road beside Whataburger, turn east there and you will see the building on the left. It is the little log cabin. PLEASE JOIN US!!!! Please check our webpage at: www.wd5tyl.org..... For the latest info. Our ARES net every Mondays on our repeater at 07:00pm. The frequency will be 147.220+ (pl=100.0) Please check in with us.

From Southwest Louisiana Amateur Repeater Club

The Southwest Louisiana Amateur Radio Club meets the last Tuesday, September 26th at 6:00pm, at the New Life Worship Center at 668 N Perkins Ferry Rd, Moss Bluff, LA 70611 at 7:00pm, VE Testing at 6:00pm. PLEASE JOIN US!!!! Our Club Net is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday Evenings at 7:00pm on 146.730 neg offset and pl tone of 173.8. EchoLink is available for use. Our SWLA Digital Link is on DMR 311995 P25 - 31337 Fusion - US SWLA337 and Dstar XLX337 Please check our webpage at <https://swlarc.com/>..... For the latest info.

From The QCWA

We meet the third Saturday each month at noon at the Schooner, 1507 S. Hwy 69 Nederland, Tx. Meetings are very informal and usually involve a "show and tell" about some kind of old radio equipment the members have in their collections. You don't have to be licensed 25 years to attend the local meetings, as is required for National QCWA membership.

INFO FROM AREA HAMS:

From Ricky Adams, KE5PYX:

I am interested in starting a 2 meter "Traders Net". Please contact me about your interest and when and where you would like to see it. Email: raradams6@hotmail.com

From: Will Parr, K0AXX:

I wanted to get the word out to our local hams that I have created a secure message board. My hope is we can utilize this to help each other in sharing ideas, working through glitches, and better promote amateur radio in SE TX.

Here is the web address : <https://k0axx.boardhost.com/index.php>it can be accessed direct or through my website, www.K0axx.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
			6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net		6:00PM OARES 7:00PM OARC Mtg	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	6:30pm ORG ARES Net 7pm TYLERCO ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm LAARC Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 7pm TCARA Mtg 7:30pm BARC Net		BARC TAILGATE SALE & VE TESTING
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	6:30pm ORG ARES Net 7pm TYLERCO ARES Net	6pm JC ARES MTG 7pm JCARC Mtg 6:30pm OARC Net 8pm LAARC Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 7:30pm BARC Net		12N QCWA MTG
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	6:30pm ORG ARES Net 7pm TYLERCO ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm LAARC Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 7:30pm BARC Net		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	6:30pm ORG ARES Net 7pm TYLERCO ARES Net 7:30 BARC Mtg VE TESTING	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm LAARC Net 7pm SWLARC Mtg	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 7:30pm BARC Net 7pm LAARC Mtg		
OCT 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6:30pm ORG ARES Net 7pm TYLERCO ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm LAARC Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 7pm TCARA Mtg 7:30pm BARC Net	6:00PM OARES 7:00PM OARC Mtg	JCARC TAILGATE SALE VE TESTING FOXHUNT
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	6:30pm ORG ARES Net 7pm TYLERCO ARES Net	6pm JC ARES MTG 7pm JCARC Mtg 6:30pm OARC Net 8pm LAARC Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 7:30pm BARC Net		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	6:30pm ORG ARES Net 7pm TYLERCO ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm LAARC Net	6:30pm OARC Net 8pm JCARC&ARES Net	6:30pm OARC Net 7:30pm BARC Net		12N QCWA MTG JOTA & FALL Support POTA

FREQUENCIES & NETS

52.525 6 Meter FM National Calling Frequency
53.150/52.150 Groves Repeater (pl 100.0)
144.390 APRS
145.010 BMT Packet Digi **NEW** KI5NOH-10 VARA Digi
145.010 W5SSV-10/N5MTX-11/WB5YDA-10 RMS Packet
145.050 KC5YSM-10 RMS Packet
145.070 WinLink P2P
145.130- Lake Charles (KC5JMJ, pl 173.8)
145.190- Kirbyville (W5JAS, pl 118.8)
145.210- S.W.L.A.R.C. (W5BII, pl 103.5)* **DOWN**
145.230- B.T.A.R.C. (N5BTC, pl 103.5)* **DOWN**
145.250-Tyler Co (KF5YDQ, pl 123.0)
145.330- Anahuac (KK5XQ, pl 123.0)
145.350- S.W.L.A.R.C. (W5BII, pl 103.5)*
145.390- Buna (W5JAS, pl 118.8)
145.450- Beaumont (N5YX) **Wires-X/C4FM DIG ONLY**
145.470- J.C.A.R.C. (W5SSV, pl 103.5*) @
145.560 Simplex-Jeff Co & Jasper ARES Secondary
146.450 Mid County Simplex
146.520 National Simplex
146.550 National SkyWarn Simplex
146.560 Simplex Tyler Co ARES Prim
146.580 Simplex Jeff Co& Jasper ARES Prim & Special Event
146.620- Jefferson Co D-Star Repeater W5SSV **DOWN**
146.640- Beaumont Repeater (KW5C, 103.5 pl) #@!
146.700- B.A.R.C. (W5RIN pl, 107.2 pl) #
146.730- S.W.L.A.R.C. (W5BII, pl 173.8)#
146.760- B.A.R.C. (W5RIN, pl 107.2) **C4FM**
146.860- Port Arthur (WD5GJP) pl 103.5
146.980- H.A.M.S. (Devers, N5FJX, pl 103.5)*
147.000- Jasper (W5JAS, pl 118.8)*#
147.060+ Orange ARC (AA5P, pl 210.7) * @
147.105+ Lake Charles (KC5JMJ pl 103.5) @#
147.160+ Beaumont (N5YX, pl 100.0) **Coming Soon**
147.180+ Orange A.R.C. (W5ND, pl 103.5)* **C4FM**
147.200+ Port Arthur (KC5YSM) (pl 118.8)*#@
147.220+ Tyler Co ARA (pl 100.0)* # + @
147.300+ Mobil Oil (W5XOM) (pl 103.5)*@
147.340+Beaumont (WR5AAA - pl 131.8)*@
147.360+ Sulphur ARC (W5SUL) D-STAR
147.380+Silsbee (KE5PYX - pl 131.8)*@
147.420 Simplex-Orange ARES Primary
147.460 Simplex-Orange ARES Secondary
147.505 -3mHz Fannett (K1LFK – pl 114.8) *
147.570 Simplex-Hardin Co ARES Secondary
223.800 Beaumont (KA5QDG) (pl 123.0) **DOWN**
224.200-Vidor (KD5UNK) (no CTCSS)
224.920 Devers (KA5QDG) (pl 123.0)
440.725+ Jefferson Co D-Star Repeater
441.525+ Beaumont Repeater (KW5C,100.0 pl) #@!
442.400+ Silsbee (KB5OVJ) **DMR Repeater**
442.575 Devers (KA5QDG, pl 103.5)
444.625 Sulphur (AF5XP, pl 146.2) **C4FM**
444.700 B.A.R.C. (W5RIN, pl 107.2)
444.800 Nederland PD (KC5YSM, pl 118.8)@^ **C4FM**
444.900 Mobil Oil (W5XOM, pl 103.5) **DOWN**
444.925 Port Arthur (KG5HFL pl 103.5)* @
446.000 National Simplex UHF

@ Denotes Emergency Power * Denotes transmitted PL tone.
Denotes echo link. + Denotes IRLP node ^ Denotes AllStar Node ! Denotes WIN system

NETS

BARC Net Thurs Night 7:30pm 146.700
JCARC Net Wed Night 8:00pm 145.470
LAARC (Jasper) Tues Night 8:00pm 147.000
Org ARC Net Mon-Thurs 6:30pm 147.180
LAARC ELMER Net SAT 7:00pm 147.000
TCARA (Tyler Co) Mon Night 7:00pm 147.220
SWLARC Mon,Wed,Fri 8:00pm 146.730
2M SSB Roundtable USB Nightly Vertical 8:30pm 144.270
2M CW Net Wed Night 7:30pm 144.160
10M CW Net Fri Night 7:45pm 28.970
2M CW Net Wed Night 7:30pm 144.160
10M LAARC Ph Net Wed 7:30pm 28.325 USB
Post Office Net Sunday 7:00am 3.905
Louisiana Traffic Net 6:30pm 3.910
Texas Traffic Net Daily 8:30am 7.285
Texas Traffic Net Daily 6:30pm 3.873
Texas ARES HF Net Monday 7:30pm 3.873
Gulf Coast SSB Net Daily 7:30pm (00:30UTC) 3.925
Delta SSB Net M-Sat 7:30am 3.905
Ctn Gulf Cst Hurricane Net Daily 8:00pm 3.935
Southwest Traffic Net Daily 9:30pm 3.935
Gulf Coast Radio Net Sunday 8:00am 3.910
Ham Radio Traders Net Sunday 10:00am 7.245
Ham Radio Traders Net Sunday 7:30pm 3.922
7290 Traffic Net M-Sat 10am-12N, 1-2pm 7.290
Louisiana ARES HF Net Sunday 7:30pm 3.878
Texas RACES HF Net 2nd Sat 4pm 7.255
Texas RACES HF Net 4th Sun 8pm 3.975
Texas RACES HF Net Last Fri 8pm 5.330.5 USB

Notes From a Couple of Repeater Owners

From David Swift, KG5HFL (444.925 Pt Arthur) So my repeater is no longer digital. Its back to analog and connected to All Star. It's going to be full time connected to a machine in Rosenberg, TX. Anyone can use the node I just ask that you disconnect from anything you connect to.

From Donald Williams, KW5C (146.640 & 441.525 Beaumont) My Repeater 441.525. +. 100 tone is on the air and it will be interlinked to the east coast hub over a 1,000 repeaters all over the coast. All are welcome to make contacts also the same with my 146.640. It's interlinked to the west coast hub all hams are welcome.

Radio operators shine light on Sabine Pass Lighthouse

Published 12:20am Thursday, August 10, 2023 - Port Arthur News By Mary Meaux

Several local and area amateur radio operators used this past weekend to shine light, so to speak, on the historical Sabine Pass Lighthouse. The HAM operators — Bob Rose of China, Glen Rose of Nederland and Verne King of Port Arthur — used their skills and equipment Aug. 5 and 6 for National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, where they made 199 contacts across 28 states and Canada, which is pretty impressive considering radio bands were impacted by recent solar activity. The very first contact made Saturday was with a lighthouse on Tucker’s Island in New Jersey. They also spoke with a number of former Coast Guard members that worked their whole careers around lighthouses who, Rose said, were fascinated that the men were at Sabine Pass Lighthouse.

We all know the weather has been hot, with highs at the 100-degree mark, give or take, and heat indices in the danger zone. The HAM operators still made their way to the site, which is approximately one mile from the Gulf of Mexico and 500 to 600 feet from the ship channel. Propagation, or how the radio waves travel, changed during the day and was affected by the solar activity. Rose said their first contacts were toward the Carolinas and Virginia, then shifted toward the middle of the U.S., then by late afternoon shifted to Colorado and California. As this was National Lighthouse Weekend, Rose said part of their mission was to provide information on Sabine Pass Lighthouse and the restoration it is undergoing. Rose called it the “plight of the lighthouse in that it still needs repairs and the Preservation Alliance is trying to obtain funds to do that.”

The men worked with Andrew Tingler, president of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse- Cameron Preservation Alliance. Tingler was pleased to have the Ham operators at the lighthouse and transmitting information about it. The restoration of the historic 1856 Sabine Pass Lighthouse is moving along slowly. Built to aid mariners, then abandoned in 1952, the lighthouse has weathered a Civil War battle and hurricanes, as well as vandals that cut and took the copper roof and other items.

Ownership of the structure changed hands a number of times and now belongs to the Preservation Alliance. Piece by piece, the building is coming back to life. In December 2019 after decades of darkness the lighthouse was relit during a special ceremony. Since then steps for the inside have been ordered, courtesy of sponsors, and work is being done on the adjacent oil house. The lighthouse endured the hurricane of 1886, which destroyed the keepers quarters and wharf. According to information from Stephen F. Austin State University, the storm killed 86 residents and destroyed or heavily damaged 75 or the town’s 77 structures. The 20-foot storm surge hit the lighthouse, and water is said to have splashed through a window more than 50 feet high. Four people were inside the structure and climbed to where the light is located; “the wind was so strong that several times it lifted up the 100-pound door” and the keeper used his body to hold the door down along with five gallons of oil. I tell this part of the story to explain the floor. After the hurricane, the floor was raised three feet, rubble placed at the bottom and concrete laid on top. Then in 2008 Hurricane Ike took down the stairwell and punched a hole in the bottom. That’s when the group learned the bottom was hollow. Currently, welders and laborers are lined up to work on the stairs and there is scaffolding inside for the new pole. For more information on the lighthouse, visit the Sabine Pass Lighthouse-Cameron Preservation Alliance on Facebook. Mary Meaux is a news reporter at The Port Arthur News. She can be reached at mary.meaux@panews.com.

Read more at: <https://www.panews.com/2023/08/10/mary-meaux-radio-operators-shine-light-on-sabine-pass-lighthouse/>



A map showing where the local amateur radio operators made contact from the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. (Courtesy photo)



Bob Rose at his radio at the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. (Courtesy photo)



Glen Rose, left, Verne King and Rob Rose are amateur radio operators that took part in National Lighthouse And Lightship Weekend. (Courtesy photo)

National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 2023

Sabine Pass Lighthouse ARLHS Number USA-714

Cameron Parish, Louisiana

By Bob Rose August 7, 2023

Rising above the salt grass marsh near the confluence of the Neches River and the Gulf of Mexico at the border of southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas stands the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. Once a proud beacon warning mariners of the dangers of shifting shoals and lighting the way to the safety of the river's channel, the Sabine Pass Lighthouse now stands as a unique reminder of the once shining sentinel that protected this busy waterway.

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse is in the process of undergoing an extensive renovation in an effort to restore its structure and return it to its former aesthetics. The Sabine Pass Lighthouse was first activated in 1857. It continued its operation until 1952 when it was decommissioned. Since then, it has suffered the ravages of time, the weather, and other external forces that have diminished its once grand structure. The Sabine Pass Lighthouse – Cameron Preservation Alliance is working hard to restore and preserve this piece of history for future generations to enjoy.

In an effort to help publicize the efforts of restoring the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, three amateur radio operators sought permission from the Cameron Preservation Alliance to shed light about the Sabine Pass Lighthouse by the activation of their amateur radios during the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society's - National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on August 5th and 6th, 2023. The unofficial date of National Lighthouse and Lightship Day is August 7. As a tribute and remembrance of the creation of the United States federal lighthouse service, radio amateurs began the activation and operation of stations at lighthouses and lightships around the country during United States National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Not only does this weekend celebrate Lighthouses and Lightships, but it also celebrates the service and accomplishments of the lighthouse keepers as well. Verne King [call sign K5QDA], Glen Rose [call sign K15TXY], and Robert "Bob" Rose [call sign W5RJR] came together to plan this activation with the purpose of bringing attention to and providing information to the public about the Sabine Pass Lighthouse.

Once permission was obtained, we took the opportunity to travel to the Sabine Pass Lighthouse site to evaluate the facility to locate two radio stations. After determining where to place the equipment at a later date, we cleaned up a small area of salt grass and brushy growth opening an area to operate our equipment and which could later be used by the Sabine Pass Lighthouse volunteer workers at the site. We also removed some low hanging limbs from a tree to allow for easy access under the tree without running into low hanging limbs. This provided a shaded area from which to operate the second radio station. With this housekeeping out of the way, we prepared our gear to bring to the Sabine Pass Lighthouse for the activation during the National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

The radios chosen for use were three (3) Icom 7300 HF radios. This arrangement provided the ability to utilize two radios and to have one in backup status while simplifying operators' familiarity with the same radios. All of the radios were provided with Anderson Power Poles which allowed any of the radios to be used with any of the battery systems that we brought to the site. There were three "home-brewed" battery boxes with either a 30 or 36 Ah LiFePo 4 battery in each of these boxes. We also had three spare batteries consisting of two twelve-volt lead acid batteries wired in parallel. We also had a battery cube with a solar panel in use to provide power for other accessories and in charging phones.

We had four different antenna systems for use. The primary antenna was a 17-foot Wolf River whip on a Wolf River tripod for 10-to-20-meter band usage. It had eighteen radials that were 11 – 12 feet in length. There were also three radials that were approximately 31 feet in length. We also had a Wolf River Silver Bullet Platinum 1000 coil to add to this antenna if we wanted to run on 40 or 80 meters.

The second antenna was a Baby Tarheel with a stainless-steel whip that was used at the second radio station. There were twelve radials on this set up that were 13 – 16 feet in length.

The third antenna system was made up of ham sticks in different bands. There was a 40-meter MFJ ham stick, and several Shark ham sticks in the 6, 10, 15, 17, and 20-meter bands. There were two mounts available for the ham sticks.

The first was a 5" Tram Magnet mount that was attached to my car. The second was a spiked mirror mount, used as a ground mount, with nine 15-foot 12 AWG radials.

We arrived at the Sabine Pass Lighthouse on Saturday morning (August 5, 2023) and began setting up the radio stations. The temperature was already in the low 90's (F) as we put together each station. After getting both stations set up and all operators discussed our plan for the start of the activation, Glen Rose started broadcasting in front of the lighthouse and Verne King and Bob Rose started broadcasting from the second station under the tree. During our operation, we provided the public with information including the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society's World List of Lights number for the Sabine Pass Lighthouse (USA-714), the location of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, the Sabine Pass Lighthouse Cameron Preservation Alliance's work to restore the lighthouse, and the Facebook page for the Cameron Preservation Alliance (<https://www.facebook.com/SabinePassLighthouse>). Being that this was not a contest, we operated at a relaxed pace and held numerous extended conversations with other radio operators.

The radio bands were being affected by solar activity and we changed bands multiple times to try to find a band that would provide constant contact with other radio operators. What we found with the bands was confirmed with the other amateur radio operators with whom we were making contact. They too were having issues making contact. We did our best working through this. As the temperature neared 100 degrees on Saturday afternoon, we continued making contacts by pulling out a number of extremely weak stations. When the last contact took 10 minutes to pull out of the noise (31), and we could not hear any other stations on the band, we called it a day and broke down our stations.

On Sunday morning, August 6, 2023, we returned to the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, set up our station, and continued broadcasting during the final day of the National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. We again found propagation to be challenging and we changed bands several times seeking a clear band. Finding 20 meters to be somewhat active, we continued on it until we hit a period of 20 minutes with no contact. This was early afternoon and the temperature was again bumping 100 degrees. Being that Glen had to go to work early the next morning, we tried for five more minutes and nothing was heard. The waterfall was showing static and there were no signals to be seen. We then shut down the station and disassembled it, confirmed that there was nothing that we were leaving, picked up any paper or trash we found, and called it a day.

We made 199 contacts across 28 states and Canada. There were a number of operators who were interested in the Sabine Pass Lighthouse's history, location and preservation efforts. We did provide the public with information about the ongoing restoration efforts as well as the lighthouse itself. This was a memorable experience. We took only our memories, and left only our footprints.

We wish to thank the Sabine Pass Lighthouse – Cameron Preservation Alliance for the opportunity and pleasure of operating during the National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. We look forward to working with you in the future.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabine_Pass_Lighthouse

TAILGATE SALE & VE TESTING

Sponsored by the:
Beaumont Amateur Radio Club (W5RIN)
L. B. Little, WB5YDA, *President*



FREE COFFEE
& DONUTS!

VE Testing for
New & Upgrades
at 10 am



Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 8 am
Behind Coburn's
2912 Eastex Frwy
Beaumont, TX 77703

**Ham Gear
for Sale!**



Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club

Tailgate Sale



Location:

JCARC Clubhouse
923 Boston Ave.
Nederland, Texas 77627

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2023

8:00 AM - TILL

Tailgating is Free

Bring your old stuff & Buy, Sell or Trade

Plenty of Coffee & Donuts
Join in the QRM!!

A Fox Hunt will follow the VE Test Session

VE Testing Available

New License or Upgrades

VE Testing 10:00AM

**What to bring to an
Exam Session:**

[Click Here](#)

!!! Notice !!!

A FCC FRN number is now
required to take an exam

For More Information contact:

Chuck Vincent, KB5NBJ (409) 540-0477

Kirk Mahaney, N5WKM (409) 718-5047

Randy Leftwich, K5RWL (409) 466-5828

www.W5SSV.com

