



TARC Bulletin



W5LM Repeaters:

146.820- MHz (PL 123.0) — 444.700 MHz (PL 123.0)

Volume 48, Issue 50

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February 2004

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Ham Expo Is May 15—Get Ready Now

After some arduous starts and stops, Ham Expo finally has a date for our spring event. It will be May 14-15.

We originally had two choices for April dates. One was Easter weekend, which we were planning to go with, until we began getting messages saying “Won’t be there.” Then, we looked and the last day in April and first of May. However, that conflicted with an HF net gathering in Smithville.

So, here we go with a date of May 15 (setup

on May 14). Perhaps this will satisfy most everybody. Mark your calendar now. We will need your help when Ham Expo gets here.



May 15
Bell County Expo Center

News from ARRL and N5OK

In his recent newsletter for the West Gulf Division, Director Coy Day, N5OK, offered congratulations to ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, on reelection to a third two-year term! For the details check the ARRL web site at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/20/1/?nc=1>

One action taken at the January board meeting of ARRL was to initiate a new Mentoring Program. Check for details on the ARRL web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/22/2/?nc=1> At

Another action was a proposal to be submitted to the FCC for license restructuring to include a new entry-level license.

Check out this story at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/?nc=1>

(Continued on page 4)

At Our Next Meeting

Our program on Feb. 5 will feature John B. McColly, W5RQ, a DXpeditioner who lives in Georgetown. He was on an exotic DXpedition last Aug-Sep. He will take us there on a guided tour. We'll have a door prize, and lots of fun. We meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Western Hills Church of Christ in Temple. Come enjoy the refreshments and fellowship.

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Ext/Mix Loop-Back Mod for Sound-Cards

By Charlie Schlieper, N5TD

Digtrx, a redundant digital file transfer (RDFT) software package for amateur radio, is an exciting program for digital transfer of **any file type**, including text, html, and pictures. It's graphics user interface design makes it a natural for use in Windows 98 through XP. Using digtrx requires a computer sound-card interface, and it is recommended that the computer be at least 1-GHz.

This program has an ext/mix loop-back test feature that allows you to see what you are transmitting. Some systems, like **laptops**, have the ability to do this without any external wiring, but most do not. Using "Y" adapters to facilitate connection between LINE-IN and LINE-OUT works fine, but after a little use they can produce some unexpected intermit-

tent connections. A "Y" connector does not provide any good way of disconnecting the loop-back for other applications--which can prove problematic.

A modified Sound Card, with a tiny miniature switch (figure 1) solves the problem! The switch is wired to the TIP and RING of both LINE-IN and LINE-OUT of the sound-card, with series 1k-ohm resistors to minimize INPUT LOADING. Selection of External Mixer Loop-Back for Digtrx is now easy.

Note: The picture shows the switch mounted backwards on the slot-panel, and at 2 a.m. this produced not only laughter, but... "Did I do that?"

Enjoy Ham Radio!

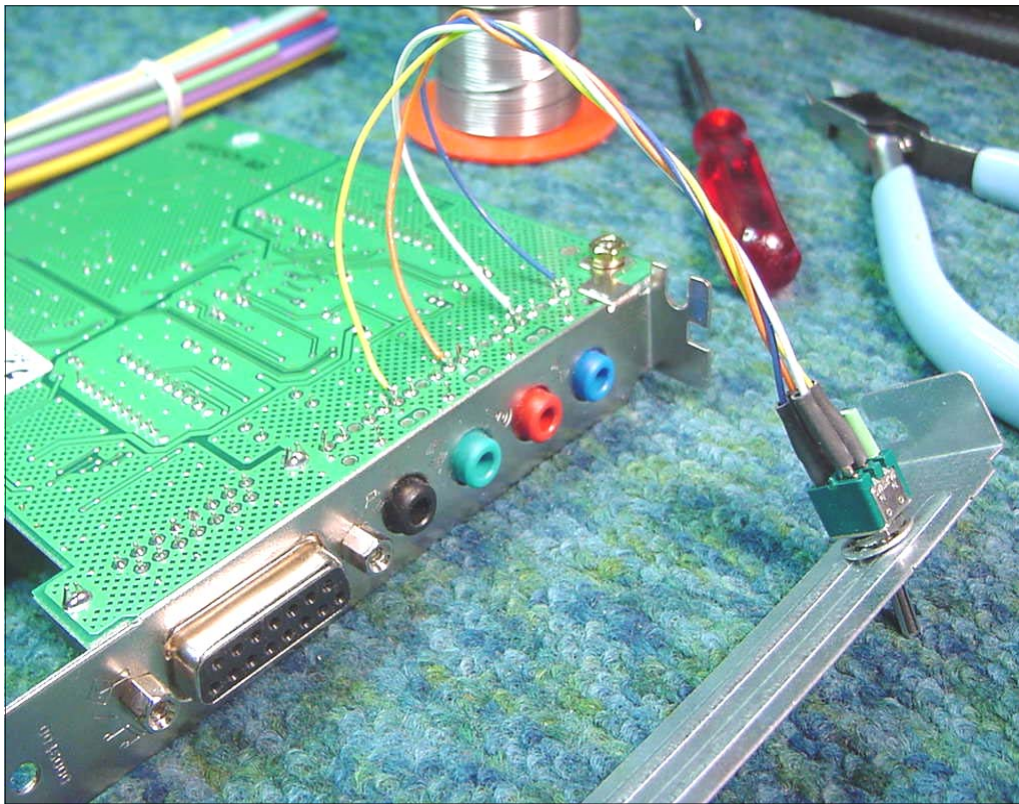


Figure 1



KEY CLICKS FROM THE ARMADILLO

...**Ham Expo** has a date. The spring Ham Expo will be **May 15** (setup on 14). Spread the word and watch for details later.

...**There was** a slim turnout for the January meeting, and so no vote was taken on the proposed amendment to the by-laws. The program about Caddo Lake, however, was fantastic.

...**Ed Stewart, N5IGA** and XYL have moved back to Cameron. Their address is 202 Adams Ave., Cameron, TX 76520. Ph.: 254-605-0723.

...**WANTED:** Outboard 5-band audio equalizer, line-in/line-out, 12VDC or 120VAC. Tom KG5II, 254-773-6178.

...**Kenwood TM-V7A** dual-bander (MARS mod) in good working order, with the DFK-3 detachable front panel kit, \$275.00. Will send pic on request. TNX and 73—Ron AA5RT. Ph.: 254-857-3166.

...**Remember the Net** — Mondays at 7:00 p.m. on 146.820- MHz (PL 123.0).

...**See you** at the club meeting on Feb. 5.

AMATEUR RADIO—
A National Resource!

FREES TO MONITOR

TARC VHF Repeater

146.820 PL 123.0

TARC UHF Repeater

444.700 PL 123.0

Texas ARES Net

(Monday nights, 7:30) on
3.873 kHz

Texas ARES

(During emergencies) 7.285

Williamson County ARES

145.130 PL 162.2

McLennan County ARES

(*Bakers Dozen*) 145.150 PL
123.0



TARC BREAKFAST

We have reserved the North section of **Golden Corral** for the third Saturday of each month, at 9 a.m. Our next TARC Breakfast will be **Feb. 21** at 9:00 a.m. It is a Dutch Treat activity. Bring your wallet, an appetite, and come **enjoy!**

Repeaters On Air at VA Tower Site

The new WB5TTY repeaters are on the Temple VA tower as of Jan. 4. The only planned addition is a pair of UPS units to power the repeaters in case of AC power failure. Coverage is good on both repeaters.

– **145.490**, -600 KHz, CTCSS of 123.0 Encode/Decode, Open Repeater

– **444.500**, +5 MHz, Tone of 88.5 Encode/Decode, Open Repeater

Thanks to Harold Reasoner, K5SXX, Chairman, Texas VHF-FM Society Frequency Coordi-

Central Texas Nets, Meetings and Internet Information

Submitted by Steve Bosshard, NU5D

NETS:

Central Texas Slow-Scan & ATV Group, 9 p.m. Nightly (8 p.m. Sundays) on 147.240 R tone 97.4.

Central Texas Experimenters and Digital Enthusiasts, 9 p.m., 145.555 tone 71.9, 445.555 tone 71.9 cross band.

7290 Traffic Net, Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m.-noon, and 1-2 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon.

Temple ARC 2M Net, Every Monday Night, 7 p.m., 146.820 R / 146.660 R tone 123.0.

Temple Backup 2M, 145.490 R tone 123.0

McLennan County ARES / Bakers Dozen, Mondays at 8 p.m., 145.150 R tone 123.0.

80 Meter Traffic Net, Every Monday Night 7 p.m. 3873 KHZ LSB

75 Meter ARES Net Every Monday Night 7:30 p.m., 3873 KHZ LSB

International Traders Net, Every Monday Night, 8 p.m., 444.875 R / 146.860 R tone 88.5, EchoLink n2len,k5jd,N2BR servers KC5YVU-R EchoLink Node

nating Committee for getting the coordination for both repeaters moved to the VA site.

Several local hams provided time and resources to this project. Without Steve NU5D, Charlie N5TD, Kay KB5DC, Bill WD5ELK, and the Temple Amateur Radio

#28821

10 Meter W5DXS Net, 8 p.m., Tuesdays on 28437 KHZ USB.

Central Texas Storm Spotters Training Net, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., 444.875 R / 146.860 R tone 88.5. KC5YVU-R Echo-Link Node #28821

Texas State Guard W5TSG Emergency Relay Net, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., 147.180 R tone 123.0 (W5BCR Lake Whitney) for Bell, Bosque, Coryell, and Hamilton Counties. 146.780 R tone 136.5 (WM5L Hillsboro) for Hill County, 145.390 R tone for Navarro, Freestone and Limestone Counties.

W5TSG Training Net, Every Wednesday 8p.m., 147.320 R tone 123.0.

Lake Whitney ARS ARES, Every Thursday Night, 8 p.m., 146.780 R tone 136.5.

Williamson County ARES, Every Sunday Night, 145.130 R no tone.

MEETINGS:

Temple ARC Meeting — Western Hills Church of Christ, IH35 and Adams Ave First Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m.

Texas State Guard ARC Meeting (Waco)— Club House 3292 Speegleville Rd., Second Monday, 6 to 8 p.m.

Waco HOTARC— TSTC Kultgen Auto Bldg. in Waco, Last Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m.

INTERNET:

Temple ARC www.tarc.org
Temple ARC List Server <Temple_ARC@yahoo.com>

Bosque County ARC www.w5bcr.org

Central Texas Storm Spotters <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/centextstormspotters/>>

Heart of Texas ARC www.hotarc.org

Williamson County ARC www.wcarc.com

Lampasas ARC / Skywarn <www.alcmugs.com/lampasas/>

Austin ARC www.austnhams.org

Austin Links www.repeater.org

Texas VHF FM Society Look Up www.txvhffm.org

Club, this project could not have been completed. This is an example of what can be accomplished when all parties come together for the good of Amateur Radio. I also thank Randy Blodgett, VA Chief of Facilities Management Service, the Media Department,

the VA Police Department, and Dan at the boiler plant for their help. Everyone at the Temple VA was a pleasure to work with! Thanks to all who came together to make this project a reality.

— Anthony Mikulastik, WB5TTY wb5tty@swbell.net

TARC Bulletin

Temple Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 616
Temple, TX 76503

Temple Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Church of Christ in Western Hills, 210 N. General Bruce Dr., in Temple—across I-35 from La Quinta Motel. Refreshments are served, and guests are invited and welcome!

First Class Mail

Address Label

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Letter of Resignation

January 18, 2004

Dear Oscar and Mike,

It is with regret that I do this, but my situation at home demands it.

Effective immediately I must resign my position on the Board of Directors of TARC, as well as my duties as vendor table assignor and VE liaison person for the VE session during EXPO.

The VE Team has equipment as well as a small amount of cash that my replacement will need for the next VE session. I will be glad to get it to whomever that is.

Also, I will be glad to work with my replacement as vendor table assignor. There are some vendors that have preferences of which he/she will definitely need to be aware.

I want you to know I have enjoyed working with the leadership of TARC, and I will certainly miss the fellowship I enjoyed.

Sincerely,

/ Jim Shepherd /

Jim Shepherd, W5RYV



(Continued from page 1)

These two actions came from information in a recent study that the ARRL had conducted by an independent firm. One of the more startling things that we learned from the study was that in the last ten years the bulk of radio amateurs shifted from the 35-54 age bracket to the 55-74 age bracket. This, along with only 2% of all amateurs being under 18, sent the board a strong message that something had to be done.