

January 2019

K5PRK Newsletter



In this Issue

Letter from President

Letter from Editor

Summer Field Day Coordinator

January Meeting

NTX Skywarn Training

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Letter from Editor

Happy New Year from K5PRK. Hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to seeing what exciting things 2019 will bring to you.

In this month Newsletter here is what you will find. I hope you will enjoy.

I'm am sure that everyone has heard that K5PRK is still in need of a Summer Field Day Coordinator, I have included an article for some idea that might get you off the fence and volunteer as Field Day Coordinator.

Sean Kelly W5SPK sent President's Corner a message about Volunteerism.

Johnnie Young KG5CQO sent wonderful information about the upcoming Skywarn training.

Tim Johnson K5TCJ sent an article about the ARRL North Texas Section Manager election coming up. Also has a link to a You Tube Video from Jason Johnston KC5HWB host of Ham Radio 2.0.

Stan Stark NW5Q has once again provided a list of some upcoming events in January.

Tony Campbell W5ADC has provided a list of events for January.

Happy New Year

David – KG5NAV

Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Events

PARK Board Meeting
January 14th

Skywarn – Collin County
January 19th

PARK General Meeting
January 21st

Winter Field Dy 26th – 27th

Repeaters

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub operations five repeats, which are located in Allen, Texas about 180 feet above ground level. All licensed amateur operators are welcome to join us on the air, all repeaters are open.

147.180 MHz + (PL 107.2)
K5PRK VHF Voice
Repeater

444.250 MHz + (PL 79.7)
K5PRK UHF Voice
Repeater

441.575 MHz + DStar UHF
Digital Voice Port B

1295.000 MHz – 20.000
DStar 23cm Digital Voice
Port B

1255.000 MHz DStar 23cm
Digital Data

President's Corner - January 2019

Volunteerism – It is a Generational Thing

A recent article in the York Daily Record showed a significant decline in the number of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In the 1970s, Pennsylvania had 300,000 volunteers. Today that number is 38,000. Of the 2,500 fire companies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 90% are volunteer. In the 1970s, fathers and sons served together often on the same apparatus – clearly a generational thing. Today, the average age of a Pennsylvania volunteer is 48 years old and often with no accompanying family member. This is not a new phenomenon. In fact, we are seeing this demise in volunteerism not only in the fire service but across our entire society. As both an amateur radio operator and a Firefighter / EMT, I wish to offer my observations in regard to the current state of affairs.

1. The Gaming Culture – I HATE IT FOR SO MANY REASONS! First and foremost, this culture is eviscerating the work and reward system that was instilled in us as children. Games of today do not teach one-time execution of strategy but rather a “do-over” or Mulligan. You just pick-up again where you screwed up until you master the current level. This level of repetition does not encourage original thought – just shortened attention spans in search of the next endorphin reaction
2. Phones – When you have your head down and not on a swivel, you are not alert, and you miss opportunities to learn and excel. Consequently, this aspect of the gaming culture does not encourage preparedness and excellence in order to make a superior first impression and seize the next opportunity.
3. Lack of human interaction. Games and phones are destroying our children’s ability to interact. Kids are literally texting their friends a few yards away. Their lack of practice in the spoken and written language is being destroyed by a shorthand requiring NSA algorithms to decode. And I will say nothing about digital friends – they are not real friendships.

The above three observations all contribute to selfish kids with no interest yet alone love of community and the Great Republic. What can be done to change this awful paradigm? Again, I offer the following corrective action plans.

- A. Be prepared to have a two-minute conversation with anyone (young or old) about the hobby. Tailor your pitch accordingly.
- B. Demonstrate the hobby as an effective countermeasure to the gaming, phone and lack of interaction culture.
 - a. Start telling your story to any child over the age of twelve to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H etc. If you have the opportunity to share your story in a school, call a fellow ham and make a splash using amateur radio as your flagship. Many of you are veterans, retired defense contractors and first responders and have compelling stories to share.
- C. Finally, and this is intended for all...start volunteering and working to make your PARK better. There are several critical needs (i.e. Special Events, Field Day Coordinator, etc.) which needs your attention, effort and command of detail as you know it.

In 2019, I challenge every member to renew their commitment to that special brand of volunteerism. The kind of volunteerism that defined the greatest generation. Deeds over words. Quiet stoicism and success over fanfare. A virtuous legacy over fame and fortune. Other than my religious upbringing and my education, amateur radio is great generational gift passed to me and subsequently to my children. This hobby is and remains the greatest hobby on earth. It has many careers, saved countless lives, preserved property and foster multitudes of international good will. Now is not the time to be sitting idle on the bench. We must pass on all that we have learned. Do it not and we leave our communities and Great Republic in a worse state of affairs than that given to us with the same degree of trust. I hope you will join me in this worthy enterprise.

73,

Sean – W5SPK

ARRL NORTH TEXAS SECTION MANAGER ELECTION

It's that time in the 2-year cycle when the ARRL North Texas (NTX) Section Manager (SM) is elected. Our current SM, Jay Uris – W5GM has decided not to run for reelection. Ken Mitchell KD2KW, and Steve Lott KG5VK have been nominated, and will be on the ballot which the ARRL will mail to members on January 2, 2019. The deadline to return executed ballots is 4 pm, February 20, 2019.

BUT WAIT!

Our current SM and both candidates will be quest speakers at the January 21st General Meeting on January 21st. This will give them an opportunity to introduce themselves and their vision of the NTX Section to us, and for us to get to know them better.

So, save your ballot, come to the January General Meeting (the 21st), and then cast your informed ballot before the February 20th deadline.

See you there.

Watch the You Tube Video from Ham Radio 2.0 hosted by Jason Johnston KC5HWB <https://youtu.be/WramSMNBQFg>

Tim Johnson K5TCJ

This Month's QSL Card is from K5PRK 45th Anniversary.
 Share pictures of your ham shack or a neat QSL card. We all like looking at other ham shacks or QSL cards. Seen in some cool ham shacks . You can also email your QSL cards of contacts that you have made in the past. Share them with other members in the club. What the furthest contact that you have made?

K5PRK

Plano, Texas • USA

Collin County



45th Anniversary
 Established 1973

K5PRK

Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK)
 P.O. Box 860435
 Plano, TX 75086-0435
 USA
 Collin County • EM13pa

- Portable Location
- Mobile Location

Confirming QSO with:

DAY	DATE		TIME UTC	FREQUENCY MHZ	2-WAY MODE	REPORT		
	MO	YEAR				R	S	T

Support those that support K5PRK

- Main Trading Co.**
<http://www.maintradingcompany.com/>
 2246 Bonham St., Paris TX., 75460
- Poor Richard's Café**
<http://www.poorrichardscafe.com/>
 2442 K Avenue Plano, TX., 75074
- Cavanaugh Flight Museum**
<http://www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com/>
 4572 Claire Chennault, Addison TX., 75001
- Bavarian Grill**
<http://www.bavariangrill.com/>
 221 West Parker Rd., Plano TX., 75023
- Bullet Trap. INC.**
<http://www.bullettrapinc.com/>
 2608 K Avenue, Plano TX., 75074
- Furr's Fresh Buffet**
<http://www.furrs.net/>
 1900 North Central Expressway Plano 75074
- Country Burger**
<http://www.countryburgertx.com/>
 3115 W. Parker Rd. #500, Plano TX., 75023
- Plano Super Bowl**
<http://www.planosuperbowl.com/>
 2521 K Avenue, Plano TX., 75074
- Two Rows Classic Grill**
<http://www.tworows.com/>
 711 Central Expressway, Allen TX., 75013
- Greek Isles Grille and Tavern**
<http://greekislesgrille.com/>
 3309 N. Central Expressway #370, Plano TX., 75023
- Chartered Financial Strategies LLC (Sean Monohan)**
 Tax Services - Business and Individual
<http://www.cfscorp.net/>
 4686 McDermott Rd. #206, Plano TX., 75024

For more detail on when and where class will be held at please see the link below, the links in the NWS SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program do not work here is a link <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnsch?sptrsch>

NWS SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program

[Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) > skywarn

skywarn
National Program

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning caused hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In an average year, the the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. SKYWARN® storm spotters are citizens who form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time--seconds and minutes that can help save lives.



Who is Eligible and How do I get started?

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter. Ready to learn more? [Find a class in your area](#). Training is free and typically lasts about 2 hours. You'll learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

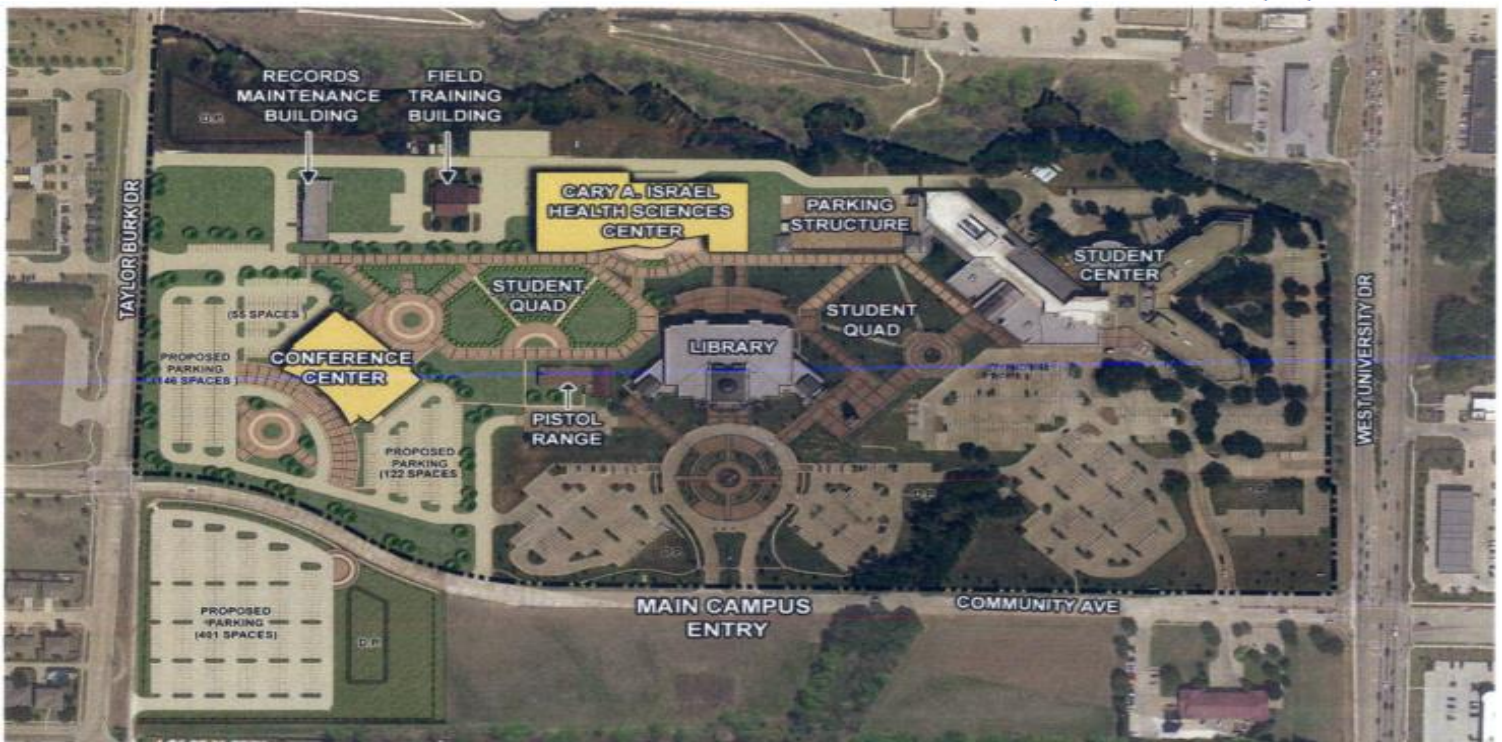
SKYWARN® is a registered trademark of NOAA's National Weather Service. [Please read the rules for the usage of the SKYWARN® name and logo](#).



US Dept of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

Disclaimer
Information Quality
Help

Privacy Policy
Freedom of Information Act
(FOIA)



Up Coming Events in January

January 14th PARK Board Meeting

This month meeting will be back at the Church

January 19th Skywarn - Collin County

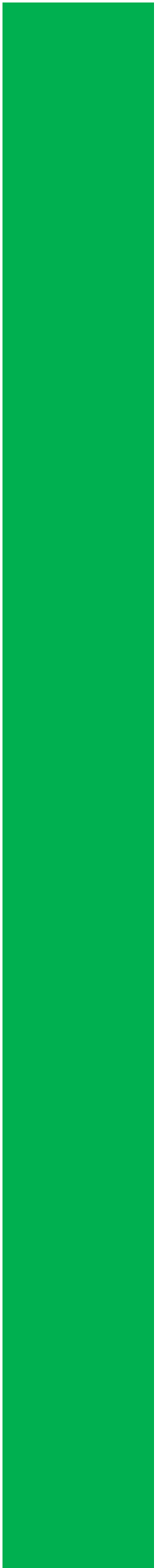
Located at the Collin Collage McKinney location

January 21st PARK Meeting

This month will be at the Church

January 26th - 27th Winter Field Day

TBD location come to meeting for more details



Last month if you cross word puzzle Chasing DX. If you have enjoyed the crossword puzzles, don't worry crossword puzzles will return soon.



Some Tips for Field Day Coordinator

1. Get a Committee – Have a strong committee, recruit as many volunteers as you can. Have five or six smaller groups work on areas of need. Some examples that will be needed have been compiled below. There will be other areas that as Field Day Coordinator will need to be addressed on an as need basics.
2. Have a plan – Use the club meetings, take up a good portion of the meeting to talk about Field Day, why it's so important. Gather information from past Field Days, what worked and what didn't work. Plan the details beforehand and the execution is more than half done.
3. Assign a welcome ambassador –Have a group that welcome people explains what's going on. As a fairly new ham I can share my firsthand experience. I show up walk around for ten to twenty minutes. No one said anything to me I felt like maybe you had to know someone to be invited. So, I got in my vehicle and left this has always happen to me at more than one club. Your plan should include a trained welcome group who welcome each attendee, with a special eye for newcomers. Younger members should be part of this group too. A key to the sustainability of our hobby is our ability to entice the next generation to get involved. This is our chance to show off the most important aspect of what we do. People may come to check out the technology, but they stay because of the friendships.
4. Do a practice run before the real thing – Do a Special Events Station using equipment that you will be using on Field Day as an opportunity to test out gear we'll be using and to review operational ideas that we're considering. Before you get to the site, make sure your gear is in working order, including antennae, radios, computers, software, grilles, iceboxes, etc. Attention to detail here will minimize the chance of failure on the big day.

5. Promote, promote, promote – Do a creative email blast to, club members, friends and your local media, customizing the copy for each audience. Make use of your social media channels and do a count-down to Field Day to keep things front-of-mind. If your group has a Public Information Officer (PIO), make the rounds to local news organizations and service clubs. Have Power points and videos prepared to make it easy for your partners to amplify your message. On Field Day, be well stocked with collateral describing your club, the ARRL and how to become a ham. Make sure your guests leave with their hands full of swag.
6. Serve good food – Nothing telegraphs summertime like the smell of hot dogs and burgers cooking on the grille. Create a sustenance committee that is responsible for feeding your volunteers and guests. Be creative, perhaps sharing the recipes you cook on fliers with information about the club. Bring lots of liquid. Especially if its hot outside, hydration is crucial to comfort and safety.
7. Get guests involved – Every Field Day site should have a Get On The Air (GOTA) station, where visitors can try their hand at making contacts. Hold open shack nights throughout the year and the first thing we do after showing off the blinking lights is put a microphone in the visitor's hands. Nothing creates excitement like involvement.
8. Operate – Get your best operators on the rigs and hit it hard. Have a plan to maximize band conditions throughout the event. Set up times where newer participants can watch, learn and practice. Once you've decided which class of operation you'll be using, keep the rigs on fire all the time. This is practice for the real thing and in the event of a true emergency, the muscle memory will kick in and your club will add true value.
9. Enjoy! – The most important thing about any club activity is to create an environment where your participants can have fun. We promote ourselves as, and in fact we are, crucial partners in times of community need. To make this happen, we need a cadre of engaged, dedicated and excited volunteers who not only know what they are doing, but love what they are doing. Field Day done right can be an annual celebration that everyone in your area, licensed or not, will want to be aware of and involved with.

Local and some HF Area Nets

K5PRK Nets

Thursday 8:00PM - General Information Net - We ask participants about their week in ham radio and their thoughts on a question of interest to the ham community. K5PRK repeater, (147.180 MHz, offset +0.600 MHz, tone 107.2 Hz) The Information Net is currently being run by Charlie Chrissey - KG5NAN, Ollie Casteel - AF5QX, Reid Bannon - N5ZT, Michael Payne - K5MFP.

MARC Nets

Sunday 8:00 PM - General Information Net - we ask participants about their week in ham radio and their thoughts on a question of interest to the ham community. W5MRC repeater, (146.740 MHz, offset -0.600 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz).

Monday 8:30 PM - Simplex net - see how far your VHF radio can go without a repeater along with general discussion. 146.540 MHz. Since this is simplex, no offset or tone are required.

1st and 3rd Mondays 8:00 PM - The NARC Ladies Net -All radio amateurs are welcome. W5MRC repeater, (146.740 MHz, offset -0.600 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz).

Collin County ARES Nets

Collin County Amateur Radio Emergency Service conducts two training nets each month. You do not need to be an ARES member to participate, all radio amateurs are welcome.

1st Sunday 9:00 PM - Collin County ARES - K5PRK repeater, (147.180 MHz, offset +0.600 MHz, tone 107.2 Hz)

3rd Sunday 9:00 PM - Collin County ARES - W5MRC repeater, (146.740 MHz, offset -0.600 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz)

SARA Nets

Wednesdays 8:00 PM - Ham Radio in Sachse - Weekly "On-The-Air" Information Net called "Ham Radio in Sachse". N5LOC Repeater (145.25MHz, PL Tone 141.3Hz, Offset -0.60 MHz)

2nd and 4th Sundays 9:00 PM - Sachse Public Service Net - ARES, RACES & Other Public Service Emergency Responder (like local CERT groups) Training. N5LOC Repeater (145.250 PL Tone 141.3 Offset -0.60MHz)

GARC Nets

Thursday 8:00 PM - Infonet - The Garland Amateur Radio Club holds an informal net open to all amateur radio operators. The net begins with check in and general announcements, followed by general discussion.

K5QHD Repeater (146.66 MHz, PL Tone 110.9 Hz, Offset -0.60 MHz)

HF Nets

Daily Net 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM - The Maritime Mobile Service Network - Anyone licensed ham can check in, this net is focused on assisting those who are maritime mobile and over the years, several distress calls have been handled by this net. 14.300

Sunday 2:00 PM - Amateur Radio Satellite Net - Open net for licensed amateur satellite discussion and updates 14.282

Daily Net - OMISS - Focused on awards, particularly Worked All State (1:30 PM frequency 14.290) (8:00 PM frequency 7.185)

Many more nets are listed here <http://ac6v.com.htm>

North Texas Hospital Net

North Texas Hospital radio club weekly nets check in with area hospitals. Friday mornings (time TBD 8 am or 9 am). Jimmy Dominguez is NCS. 442.400/146.700. Regular splits PL tones 110.9/110.9. All are welcome to check in from your QTH as individual.

If you want to list your favorite net. Please send as much information you can to

KG5NAV@gmail.com

Upcoming Contests for January

It's hard to believe that we have put another year behind us. After a quiet December, January offers some very popular contests as well as many smaller ones. While this year, ARRL does not have any yearlong events, our Canadian friends help to fill the void. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) which is the Canadian version of ARRL, is doing a Canadian National Parks on the Air event. Details can be found here: <https://cnpota.ca/>

ARRL Kids Day Contest – SSB – January 5th – 1800Z-2400Z – Not a serious contest, but a great way to put your kids (or grandkids) on the air to talk to other kids. Suggested exchange is name, age, location and favorite color.

ARRL RTTY Roundup – RTTY, PSK-31, other digital modes including FT8- January 5th -1800Z to January 6th - 2400Z. This is one of the most popular RTTY contests. Exchange is: 599/TX.

YB DX Contest – SSB – January 12th – 0000Z to 2359Z. While it will no doubt be a struggle to work any stations in Indonesia, you can work anyone so there may still be activity on the bands. Exchange is: 59 + a serial number starting with 001.

North American QSO Party CW - CW - January 12th - 1800Z to January 13th- 0600Z: Fun contest, great for adding states/provinces to your log. Exchange is: your name + TX.

Hungarian DX Contest – CW, SSB – January 19th – 1200Z to January 20th– 1200Z. Surprisingly active contest. You can work anyone. Exchange is 599/59 + a serial number starting with 001.

North American QSO Party SSB - SSB - January 19th - 1800Z to January 20th - 0600Z. The Phone version of this very popular contest. Offers another great opportunity to add states or provinces to your log. Exchange is your name + TX.

ARRL VHF Contest – All modes - January 19th - 1900Z to January 21st – 0400Z. Conditions are unpredictable this time of year, but I would expect a lot of FT8 activity. Also, worth checking out if you can do SSB or CW on 6 meters or above Exchange is simply the grid square, which for Collin County and points north to Oklahoma is: EM13. And to the south - Dallas, Ft. Worth and surrounding areas are EM12.

CQ 160 Meter CW Contest – CW – January 25th - 2200Z to January 27th - 2200Z. One of only 3 major 160 Meter contests. Exchange is: 599 + TX.

BARTG RTTY Sprint – RTTY – January 26th – 1200Z to January 27th – 1200Z. This is a popular RTTY contest. You can work everyone. Exchange is simply a Serial Number starting with 001.

UBA DX Contest, SSB – SSB – January 26th – 1300Z to January 27th – 1300Z. While the main objective is to work Belgian stations, you can work anyone for points. The exchange is 59 + a Serial Number starting at 001.

Winter Field Day – All modes – January 26th - 1900Z to January 27th - 1900Z. Exchange is Category and ARRL Section. For complete information see the rules here: <http://www.winterfieldday.com/rules.html>

Good luck have fun!

NW5Q

Letters to the Editor

I need your help. Please help with the next newsletter. This is the club newsletter, so we need your pictures letters and articles. Let me know what you want. If you feel strongly about an issue and want to let people know what you think, write a letter to the editor. It's simple and democratic. Please be sure to follow these criteria:

- Be courteous
- Stick to the facts
- Be Concise (50 -150 words)

All letters must be signed and provided a call sign if possible. The editor reserves the right to select which letters are published. The editor may also require revisions or removal of parts that do not meet the above criteria or for content deemed inappropriate by the editor. This is the same rigor that the rest of the newsletter is subjected to. Send email to KG5NAV@gmail.com

Thanks
Newsletter Editor