

The  
**W5ES**  
 BULLETIN  
 The El Paso Amateur Radio Club  
**March 2024**  
 A 501 c (3) Organization



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W5ES BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE EL PASO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
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**REMEMBER - IT'S NOT THE CLASS OF LICENSE THE AMATEUR HOLDS, BUT THE CLASS OF THE AMATEUR THAT HOLDS THE LICENSE.**

**President's Corner**

March winds and April showers bring May flowers. But the winds also bring potential antenna damage, and March is the beginning of many Spring events, including, Lent, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Egg Hunts and The 68th Annual St. Patrick's day Hamfest and ARRL West Texas Section convention which will be held Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the MLK community center in Midland. For more information email at MARC.W5QGG@GMAIL.COM



March 8<sup>th</sup> will be our normal business meeting at 7:00 PM. All members are invited. We will be discussing the facility, ways of increasing meeting attendance, future programs, alternate meeting times, and Hamfest preparation.

On March 22 we will have a Fish Fry dinner at 7:00PM which should be very good, so bring your favorite side dishes and your appetites. This will also be our program night about DMR radio which should be very interesting.

If you have any ideas on how to make our club more viable, please send us your suggestions, or better yet, come to the meetings! and be heard. We need more participation and brainstorming from our members.

**Don't forget club dues are due on January 1, 2024, you may pay dues by mail to W5ES EPARC, 2100 San Diego St. El paso, Texas 79930. Our PayPal account allows you to pay your dues and/or make your contribution electronically. Please consult the w5es website for more information.**

## DEC Bulletin

Let's talk about repeater/reflector etiquette for both analog and digital modes. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules Subpart B covers good practices we should follow when we are operating our stations on the air and on a repeater. If you don't have a copy of the FCC Part 97 rules and regulations, you should get a copy and have it handy in your station.



FCC Rules, Subpart B, §97.101(a) states "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC rules each amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice." In other words, we are expected to maintain our station equipment and our operating standards at the highest levels. Get familiar with the complete Subpart B. It's the start of forming good operating and repeater etiquette.

One of the first things we learned when operating on a repeater is to monitor the repeater to see if another conversation is in progress. Remember we have two ears and one mouth. This means we should listen twice as much as we transmit. Do not interrupt the conversation unless you have something constructive (not an opinion) to add to the conversation.

To initiate a conversation on a repeater simply say, "Is this repeater in use? then give call sign or say, "This is (your call sign) then say monitoring."

Many times, people think that they are still talking on their cellphones and forget to give their call sign at the end of each transmission or every 10 minutes. Also, remember when using digital modes some countries do not allow digital ID's. So, if you are talking to someone in a foreign country, give your ID by voice.

Pause between each transmission long enough for the repeaters/reflectors to reset their timers. When operating on a series of analog linked repeaters make that pause twice as long. On the digital repeaters when you unkey you will hear some beeps indicating that the repeaters and reflectors are reset. When continuing a transmission key up the microphone and wait a couple of seconds before beginning to talk. This gives the repeaters and reflectors enough time to key up and transmit what you are saying.

Keep transmissions short. Analog repeaters have a 2-minute time-out-timer to protect the equipment. By default, D-Star repeaters and reflectors time-out-timers are 3-minutes. Although some system administrators have set their D-Star repeaters time-out-timers back to 2-minutes.

The wait between transmissions from one operator to another should be extended another couple of seconds to allow someone with an emergency traffic time to break in and announce they have emergency traffic. Emergency traffic ALWAYS has priority.

When operating on a net always follow the instructions of the net control. On a digital net do not try to quick key between transmissions if you are simply trying to check into the net. The net control will call for more check-ins when he/she is ready to take them. You will most likely end up doubling with someone else. Doubling should be avoided. We used to say key the microphone and say, "This is (unkey and listen for other operators checking in) then key back up and give your call sign." But that has been debunked. It only makes the nets go longer.

In an analog repeater system when two operators double with each other the repeater will try to repeat the transmission. Ending up in unintelligent noises being transmitted. In D-Star this double is seen as packet crashes and the repeater will not transmit anything. Suddenly everything goes silent for a while until the systems are reset. Do not key your radio while this is happening. It will only prolong the silent. Give the equipment time to reset. Tailgating is when someone keys up their radio before the repeaters/reflectors have had time to reset their timers. In the analog world the second operator is going to be cut off before they finish their transmissions. In the digital world the operator that didn't wait for the equipment to reset will have the other person's call sign showing on the receiver's display.

If a conversation can be completed on a simplex frequency, then use it. Repeaters are really for mobile radios and handheld radios to extend the distance.

When using a repeater (analog or digital) use the minimum amount of power to complete the conversation. When using high power to close to a repeater could overdrive the front end and could damage the repeaters receiver. Check out Part §97.313(a)

One last thing not really pertaining to etiquette. When using D-Star to check your signal use the Echo function on the repeater. To do this place the letter E in the eight-character position in the Your Call field. Speak into the microphone then unkey and the repeater will repeat back to you what you said. To use the echo feature on a reflector. Connect your hotspot to the E-module on the reflector (do not try this on modules A-D). The E-module has a 30 second timer so keep the test short. When testing your connection when sending an image select the lowest resolution possible and select an image with little to no color. Then send the image. The reflector will send the image back. You can evaluate the connection without having to have someone else present.

**Questions and comments are always welcome and encouraged. Send an email to the address shown below.**

Lew Maxwell, KB5HPT

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

DEC, District 6, WTX Section

TX RACES: DRO-8A

email: [kb5hpt@arrl.net](mailto:kb5hpt@arrl.net)

## VE Testing News

For the past year, the W5ES VE team has implemented a digital paperwork process that has made testing faster and easier than ever. The VE team has also held multiple online test sessions. Thinking of upgrading? We can help make it happen on your schedule, from the comfort of your QTH. Email Chris ([kc8goq@qsl.net](mailto:kc8goq@qsl.net)) for more information about online testing. The next VE session will be held on March 2, 2024, at K5WPH at 3709 Wickham, at 9:00 AM.

## Business Mtg. March 8, 7:00PM

Our next business meeting will be held Friday March 8 at 7:00PM. Program night will be Friday March 22 at 6:00 PM. The Dinner will be a Fish Fry followed by a demonstration of DMR radio by Tom Parks KJ5CWU.

## Repeaters

W5ES repeater is 443.150, + Offset, PL 173.8 Automatic analog and C4FM digital.

**Wires X Node: 11584 Room: 21584**

### Amigo Link Repeaters

145.290	- Offset	PL 100
146.700	- Offset	PL 114.8
147.240	-660 Offset	PL 162.2
147.280	+ Offset	PL 67
147.320	+580 Offset	PL 162.2
443.400	+ Offset	PL 100
444.200	+ Offset	PL 100
442.825	+ Offset	PL 100
442.950	+ Offset	PL 67
144.325	+ Offset	PL 94.8

## Net Meetings

Don't forget our Sunday night net at 7:00 PM on the Amigo Link. See list of Amigo Link frequencies.

Also - -

**2-Meter Sideband Net** -Sundays at 8:00 PM on 144.200.

**D-STAR Net** Mondays at 7:15PM on Reflector

**55AWTRA** – Mondays at 8:00 PM on Amigo Link repeaters.

## W5ES Merchandise

Kelly KB2RN has been hard at work and set up an online store featuring W5ES branded items with the club logo.

Items include cups and mugs, stickers, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and handbags. There are many colors and styles to choose from, so hopefully there is something for everyone. Part of the proceeds come back to the club. To visit the web store, go to [www.w5es.org](http://www.w5es.org) and click on the store on the main page of the club website.



2024 March



COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 VE Exam K5WPH 3709 Wickham 9:00 - Noon
3 WSES NET 7:00 PM AMIGO LINK	4 D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM	5	6	7 West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM	8 WSES Business Mtg 7:00 PM	9
10 WSES NET 7:00 PM AMIGO LINK	11 D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM	12	13	14 West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM	15	16
17 	18 D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM	19	20	21 West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM	22 WSES Program Nite 6:00 PM	23
24 WSES NET 7:00 PM AMIGO LINK	25 D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM	26	27	28 West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM	29 	30
31 				7		

WSES PLANNING GUIDE						
Tentative Schedule						
2024						
JANUARY	12	7:00 PM Business Meeting	26	6:00 PM Pizza Party	Pico Balloon Presentation	Quarterly Board meeting TBD & ARRL Winter Field Day 28-29
FEBRUARY	9	7:00 PM Business Meeting	23	6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner	Antenna Grounding	1st Sat 9AM VE Session
MARCH	8	7:00 PM Business Meeting	22	6:00 PM Fish Fry	DMR Demo	
APRIL	12	7:00 PM Business Meeting	26	6:00 PM Ice Cream Social		Quarterly Board meeting TBD & 1st Sat 9AM VE Session
MAY	10	7:00 PM Business Meeting	24	6:00 PM Mexican Dinner		Raffle
JUNE	14	7:00 PM Business Meeting	21	6:00 PM Burgers	Field Day Prep.	ARRL Summer Field Day June 24-25 & 1st Sat 9AM VE Session
JULY	12	7:00 PM Business Meeting	19	6:00 PM Italian Dinner		Quarterly Board Meeting TBD
AUGUST	9	7:00 PM Business Meeting	23	6:00 PM Chili Cook Off	Repeaters	1st Sat 9AM VE Session
SEPTEMBER	13	7:00 PM Business Meeting	20	6:00 PM End of summer BBQ		Emergency Preparedness Month
OCTOBER	11	7:00 PM Business Meeting	25	6:00 PM October Fest Dinner	WAE Prep	Quarterly Board Meeting TBD & 1st Sat 9AM VE Session
NOVEMBER	8	7:00 PM Business Meeting	22	Thanksgiving - No meeting	Thanksgiving Dinner Food Collection	WAE Contest 4-5
DECEMBER	13	7:00 PM Business Meeting	27	6:00 PM Holiday Feast	Christmas Party Gift Exchange	1st Sat 9AM VE Session