



W5AC

**Texas A&M University
Amateur Radio Club**

Fall Informational



Please sign in!
tx.ag/KrGnENe

Agenda

- What is Ham Radio?
- What is W5AC?
- W5AC History
- Demonstration #1: Software Defined Radio & APRS
- Normal W5AC Operations
- Fall 2020 Plans
- Demonstration #2: Nets (SSTV Net)
- Becoming and being a Member

What is Ham radio?

- A fun and exciting hobby
 - You can talk around the world without relying on anyone else
 - You can participate in public service events
 - You can talk to a local group of friends
 - You can participate in contests
 - Much, much more
- Ham radio is not CB/FRS/GMRS
 - Unlike CB, FRS, and GMRS which are fairly restricted services, hams are encouraged to experiment and tinker
- Ham radio is a licensed service
 - You must pass a license exam in order to operate ham radio equipment
- What can you do with ham radio?
 - The sky's the limit... and then some (you can talk to the astronauts on the space station!)
 - You can make ham radio pretty much whatever you want it to be!

What is W5AC?

- W5AC is an amateur (ham) radio club run by students for students!
- More than that, we are a group of like minded nerds, trying to have fun and live out our nerdy side
- We are an academic and social club alike, focused on a shared interest for electronics and radio
- We are a group of people trying to learn from each other, and trying to teach each other. There is always a fun project going around you can be a part of, or someone willing to be part of your fun project.
- Finally we are A&M's face in the radio community, well known and respected, we show technical skill and excellence in the A&M student body.

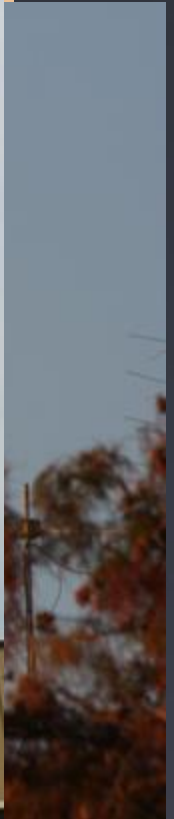
W5AC History

- 1912-1922
- 1922-1941
- 1941-2000
- 2000-2020



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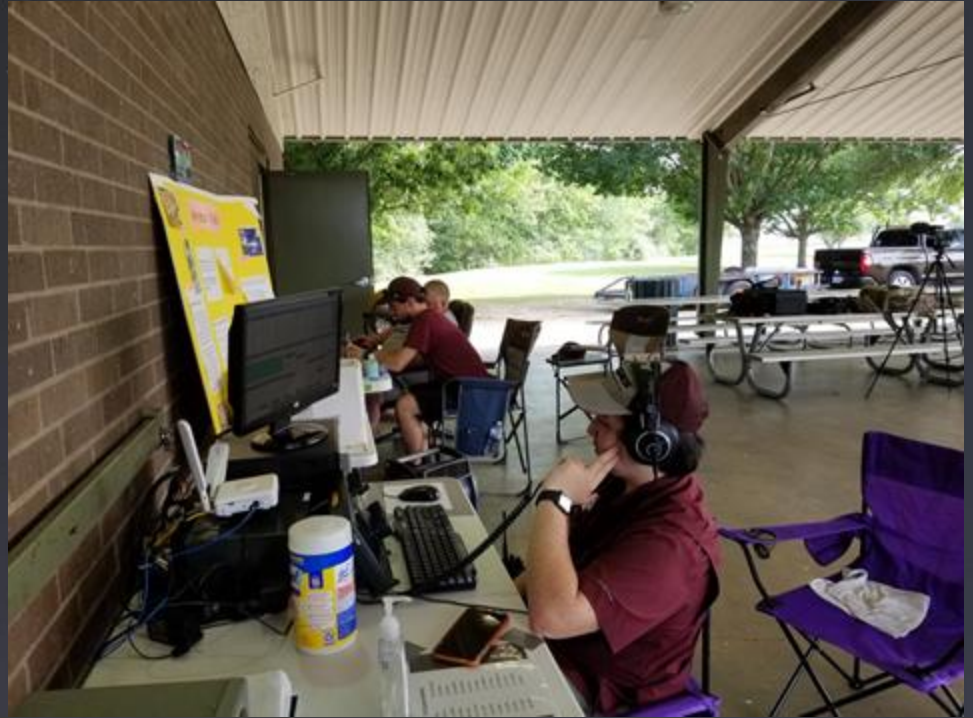
Normal W5AC Operations

- Field Day
- Foxhunts
- Texas QSO Party
- Kansas QSO Party
- School Club Roundup
- Radio Restoration
- Texas Parks on the Air



Fall 2020 Plans

- Outdoor/ social distanced
 - Foxhunts
 - Antenna projects
- Small group activities
 - Radio restorations
 - Operating
 - RF projects
- Everything depends on University guidance



Becoming and being a member

- Who can Join?
 - Unlicensed or radio expert, student or community member, we're open to anyone
- How much does it cost?
 - Dues: 27\$ voting, 22\$ non-voting, for the year, through marketplace (Cash/Check discounts available!)
 - Your first radio ~ 50\$
- What does being a member get me?
 - Access to club facilities and radios (depending on University regulations)
 - A community of radio enthusiast's from which to learn
 - Opportunities to learn about radios and participate in fun activities
- What is expected of me as Member ?
 - You can be as much or as little involved as you like (more is better in our opinion)
 - All we ask is that you be respectful of other members, their property and the clubs property

Exams

- We do hold free exam sessions for all license classes, but covid has made it hard
 - You need and FRN from the FCC (also free)
- Fall 2020:
 - Exam sessions on demand
 - Poll : who wants to take an exam?
 - Potentially outdoor exam, or large social distance safe room on campus, depending on demand and university policy
- We do not proctor online (remote) exams
- We want to help you get licensed!
- We're going to figure out a way to do it

Questions?

