

W5AC General Meeting

September 25th, 2025

Take a seat anywhere!



Welcome!

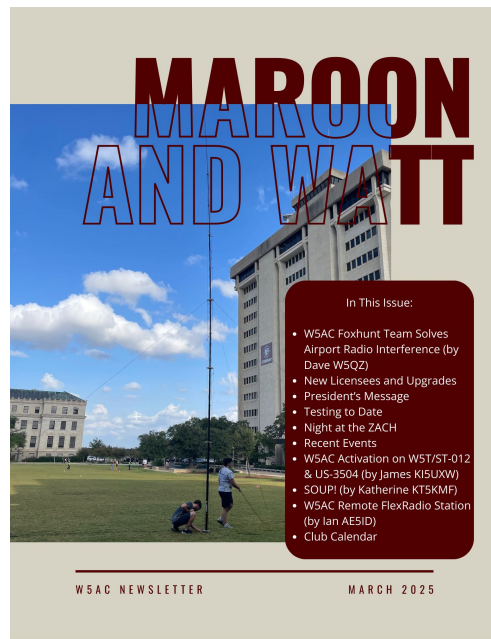
Meeting Agenda

- **Business Items**
 - **Officer and Director Updates**
 - **Voting Items**
 - **Special Election for Vice President**
- **Feature Presentation**
 - Crash Course in Amateur Radio
- **Semester Information**
 - Event Schedule
 - Where to find us
- **Closing**
 - Q&A
 - Group Dinner

Officer and Director Updates

President / Newsletter Editor: Katherine Forson (KT5KMF)

- If you've done anything cool with ham radio lately, and would like to share it with the club, let me know!
 - I can help with article writing
- If you paid dues last year and you're unsure about your current dues status, I will be sending out a list later this evening/tomorrow of anyone whose dues are expiring soon



Secretary / Equipment Manager: Matthew Cadman (KJ5IIF)

- Weekly net still ongoing - Mondays at 9:00 PM
- Vote to approve meeting minutes
- Recruiting for additional help for Equipment Manager position.
- Belton October 4th - Waiver Forms will be required

Treasurer: Joshua McMillin (KJ5DA0)

TREASURER REPORT (As of 9/22/2025)

- General: \$1064.14
- License Testing Fees: \$14.00
- Marketplace: \$346.43
- ARRL Grant: \$526.68
- Good Bull Fund: \$255.00
- Tamf-Tamu: \$1631.74

Note: Funds are still needing to be taken from ARRL Grant and the Good Bull Fund for reimbursements.

Transactions:

(May - 9/22/2025)

Dues: \$143

Sales: \$7

Expenses:

- Go-Kit
\$2367.67
- MP FEES \$3.75

Gifts: \$187



Repeater Administrator/Digital Infrastructure Director: Ian Duncan (AE5ID)

- 1.25m repeater is currently off
- Flex is currently down for window washers

Director of Inter-Club Relations: Cam Ellis (WX5CAM)

- Texas Aggie Storm Chasers (TASC) has proposed another event to train their HAMs on using mobiles and handhelds as well as assembling mobiles.
 - Could be a good networking opportunity to catch new HAMs.
 - Introduce them to foxhunting?
- TAMSCAMS has reached out to potentially do a joint-tailgate October 4th before Mississippi State.
 - Other Organizations invited (TAMUOcean, WiGs, ASGS)



Club Historian / Shack Director: Dave Gent W5QZ



Voting Items

Vote to remove old tri fold boardroom whiteboard thing from the club's possession — we do not have space for it.

Vote to get rid of “trash” - Something that cannot possibly be used for its intended function anymore or that a reasonable person would consider trash. With limitations being that it is under \$25 value in its current condition, and that it goes directly into the trash and is not distributed to others.

Vote to get rid of broken / bad coax. We have new coax and a closet full of questionable coax.

Election

- Paper ballots for in person. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME
- Google form for not in person, but this will not be anonymous.
- Current officers and Dr. Nowka (if available) will tally votes.

Nayab Warach '26 / KI5YBE

Who Am I?

- Electronic Systems Engineering Technology
- Class of 26 (Grad. 27)
- Used to be very active on FT8
 - Reworking antenna setup



Why Vote For Me?

- Former W5AC Treasurer
- Served with Katherine
- Now President of KANM
 - Leading effort for FM License
 - Working closely with Wayne (N1WP)
 - Not here because of that
- Familiar with Student Affairs Rules
- SOFC Experience



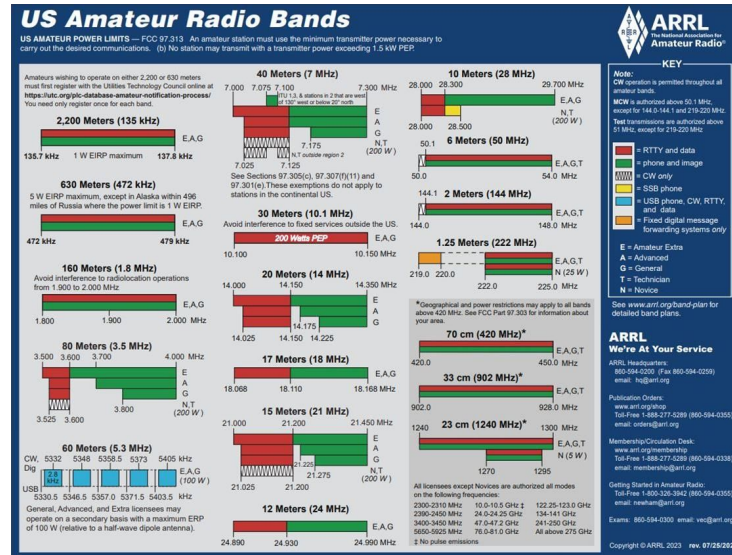
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A Crash Course in Amateur Radio Basics

Bands / Frequency Ranges

- UHF and up (EHF, SHF, etc)
300 MHz and up
- VHF (6m, 2m, 1.25m)
30MHz to 300MHz
- HF (80m-10m)
3 to 30 MHz
- VLF, LF, MF (80m and below)
Below 3 MHz



UHF and up

- **Very directional and line of sight operations**
- Local communications
- Often used for Digital Modes
 - Satellite operations
 - Weather
 - Digital voice
 - DMR, Dstar, etc.
 - Wi-Fi, LoRa, Meshtastic
- Moon Bounce Operations

Common antennas include Beams & Dishes

VHF

- **Directional and Mostly Line of Sight**
 - Tropospheric Ducting (2 meters and 1.25 meters)
 - Get from here to Florida!
 - 6 Meter Band Propagates, sometimes
 - Considered “The Fun Frequency”
- Some Satellite Operations
- Shorter Range Contesting
- Digital Operations
 - Automatic Packet Radio Service (APRS)
 - FT8
- Beams, but also dipoles and lower gain antennas



HF

- **Talk Around the World!**
 - Range depends on the weather and the sun
- **Make Contacts**
 - DXing (contacting every country)
 - POTA, SOTA
 - Contesting
 - School Club Roundup, Summer / Winter Field Day, etc.
 - FT8 and other digital modes
 - CW common as well



Modulation Schemes

FM (Frequency Modulation)

- High Bandwidth (Better Quality)
- Short Range
- Common on handhelds

AM (Amplitude Modulation)

- Lower Quality
- Longer Range

SSB (Single Side Band)

- Lower Bandwidth
- Longer Range

Digital

- Very low bandwidth
- Very efficient - go far with low power
- Typically needs a computer and extra hardware

Morse Code CW (Continuous Wave)

- Very low bandwidth (on and off)
- Can go across the world on 5 watts if done right
- Large learning curve



What can I do?

Technician License:

- Grants access to UHF and VHF frequencies
 - Local Communications
 - Satellite Operations
- Can Also use a portion of 10 meter band: 28 to 28.5Mhz
- CW on limited sections of HF

General License:

- Grants access to nearly all HF frequencies
 - Contesting
 - Long Distance Contacts

Extra License:

- Grants access to all HF Frequencies
 - Even more contesting!
- Fully opens the world of HAM radio to you
- You can help us by becoming a Volunteer Examiner! :)



Repeaters

- Rebroadcasts your signal to talk to others!
- Usually installed in high places with sensitive antennas
- Allow much greater range even with low power radios

Types of Radios:

Handheld Transceivers (HTs)

- Very portable, usually inexpensive
- Low power (5-10 watts)
- Useful for foxhunting and local (2-3 miles) communication, as well as repeater work.



Mobile Radios

- Higher power (50 watts)
- Intended for vehicle applications
- Sometimes designed with detachable control units

Base Station Radios

- Most expensive, highest performance
- Largest, but usually with power to match (100 watts and up)
- Designed for fixed applications in a shack



So, what radio or license do I need?

The only real answer is: It depends!

For local repeater and VHF/UHF work, a HT and external antenna will work great!

For HF phone or CW, you need an HF antenna and an HF radio, but can look at used rigs.

For HF Digital modes, you will want a newer radio like a QMX or G90.



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Semester Information

Upcoming Events

- On-Campus Operating Event - Friday, October 3rd
 - 1pm - 4pm in E-Quad
- **Double Event Day! - Saturday, October 4th**
 - Belton Hamfest - will be sending out more information soon
 - This will be a travel event, and expect to leave early
 - Tailgate with TAMSCAMS
 - Outside of O&M, 4:00 pm
- Lunch Social - Friday, October 17th
 - Meeting up at 12pm at Schlotzsky's near campus
- School Club Roundup
 - Monday, October 20th - Friday, October 24th

Upcoming Events Continued

- **Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 8th**
 - Meeting start at 7pm
 - License testing before at 6pm
 - **O&M (the one with the radar on top), room TBD**

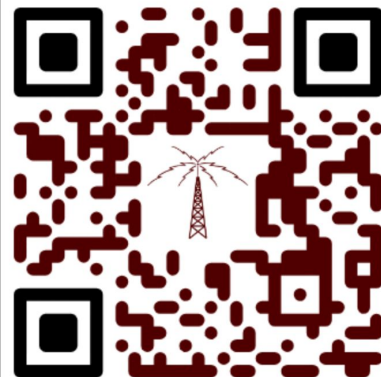
Join our calendars!

- Events - **w5ac.tamu.edu/w5acevents**
- Repeater/Nets - **w5ac.tamu.edu/w5acrepeater**

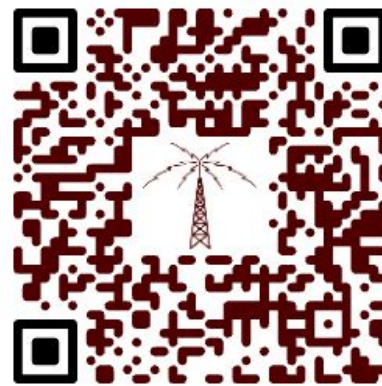


Where to Find Us

- Linktree
 - Website
 - Social Media
 - Discord (we post all of our announcements here!)
- Flywire Store
 - Membership Dues
 - In person - talk to Josh
 - Merch coming soon... stay tuned!



<https://linktr.ee/w5ac>



tx.ag/duesw5ac

W5AC Fall 2025 Questionnaire



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Questions?

Gig 'em and 73s!

(Best Wishes)



Dinner Time
See y'all at McDonald's!