



## RWK "Hungry Hams" Lunches are More Than Just BBQ

by John Di Filippo, AF5MN



A hot digital hotspot discussion. (left to right are Sam Wash N9ZMK, Bill Werner AE5FM, Buddy Shipley KF5LJD, Don Griffin WS5L, and Jason Shipley KF5LJC)

While attending a recent "Hungry Hams" lunch at Sonny Bryan's, **Stephen Forney (KC5TEX)**, an experienced ham but relatively new RWK member, mentioned that the lunches were so much more than just a bunch of old hams doing some rag chewing over a plate of barbecue. One look around the room and I had to agree with him. Once the plates were clean you saw small groups of hams forming as they clustered around flickering laptop screens, handy-talkies interconnected with Raspberry-Pis, and the latest ham hardware.

For hams interested in digital hotspots, you don't have to wait for **David Dennis' (N5BOC)** presentation at the February general meeting. **Don Griffin (WS5L)**, **Buddy Shipley (KF5LJD)**, **Jason Shipley (KF5LJC)**, and **David Cappello (KG5EIU)** are RWK hotspot gurus and convene sessions nearly every Wednesday. For the uninitiated, a digital hotspot is a tiny but powerful module that can change a Raspberry-Pi into a hotspot for all amateur digital modes -- C4FM, D-Star and DMR. These modules come in many forms from a number of different vendors. Between Don, Buddy, and Jason I think they have just about all of them. Don has even made custom cases on his 3D printer for a few of the members with their call-signs molded right into the case. **Albert Barrios (KI5CAD)** has had a non-functional hotspot laying around for awhile and was pleased to get some helpful advice at a recent lunch that might finally help him get it on the air.

### K5RWK EVENTS

#### Meeting-on-the-Air

First Monday of every month, 7:30pm  
RWK Repeater, 2 Meter  
147.120 (PL 110.9 Hz)

#### Monthly Meeting

Second Monday each month, 6:30pm  
St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church  
1220 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson

See website for this month's program information and calendar for latest updates.

#### Monthly Breakfast

Third Saturday each month, 8:00am  
Southern Recipes Grill  
621 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 229, Plano, TX

#### RACES Nets & Siren Test

First Wednesday each month, 12:00pm  
Contact [sirentest@k5rwk.org](mailto:sirentest@k5rwk.org) for details

[www.k5rwk.org](http://www.k5rwk.org)

VHF repeater: 147.120 (PL 110.9 Hz)  
UHF repeaters: 444.725 (PL 110.9 Hz)  
Wires X active 100%  
443.375 (PL 110.9 Hz)

#### Ham radio license exams

Third Thursday each month, 7:00pm  
St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church  
Contact Don Click, KG5CK at:  
[nkhamtest@gmail.com](mailto:nkhamtest@gmail.com)

### Next Meeting Program:

Locally Built Digital Hotspots  
Featuring N5BOC

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Club membership is open to all persons interested in amateur radio. Join at any meeting, by mail or online via [www.hamclubonline.com](http://www.hamclubonline.com) - Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$20 family, or \$5 student rate.

**Archives of The Chawed Rag available online at:**

<http://k5rwb.org/rwk01/index.php/rwkdocuments/rwk-newsletters>

## “Hungry Hams” (continued)

**Paul Newman (KA5TYW), Bill Richards (KM5VZ), and Bill Werner (AE5FM)** are the RWK devotees on the frontiers of FSQ. They are usually at the center of lively discussions and hands-on demonstrations of what FSQ is and how it can augment conventional ham technologies in an emergency. FSQ is a Fast Simple QSO mode designed specifically for HF but can also be used on VHF FM. All you need to get started is a digital modes interface for your computer like a Signalink USB. The software is open source and free (checkout the September 2015 QST for a good write-up on this technology). I hear it's a lot like chatting over the Internet. You simply type in a line, hit RETURN, and the software sends your call-sign and the line you just typed. You can even send images. You can communicate directly to a nearby station via simplex or to a distant station via other stations in the mesh. Not in your shack when a message comes in? No problem because messages are held somewhere in the mesh waiting for you the next time you join.



**Kevin Arlington (N2QIN) and Sam Wash (N9ZMK) discuss using Sam's Yaesu FT-2D as a portable Wires-X node.**

Not so much lately, but AREDN is another technology that was often discussed over a plate of barbecue. AREDN is an acronym for Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network and is a high-speed data RF mesh of radios/routers operating in the ham microwave bands. It is primarily designed to provide a TCP/IP medium when other network infrastructure has failed. AREDN is available to any ham with a Tech license or higher and some relatively inexpensive off-the-shelf equipment. I did an informal pole at last year's 2018 President's Dinner and was surprised at how many RWK members have portable AREDN nodes as well as nodes installed at their QTH. **Doug Kilgore (KD5OUG), Paul Newman (KA5TYW), Bill Reed (NX5R), and David Cappello (KG5EIU)** are the RWK go-to guys for AREDN. So if you'd like some one-on-one coaching to get started in this aspect of amateur radio then this lunch might be just the ticket.

## “Hungry Hams” (continued)

**Beau Williamson (N5PY)**, RWK Director for Mentoring and Education, can often be found moderating lively discussions regarding training for hams wanting to upgrade their license. Suffice it to say that Beau isn't a fan of just memorizing the answers to the exam questions. His interest lies in putting experienced hams together with new hams in order to impart a solid understanding of the fundamentals. He'll be putting this philosophy into practice at his upcoming Amateur Extra Study Group which is scheduled to begin on 19-Feb (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the study group).



Good old rag chewing. (left to right are **Paul Newman (KA5TYW)**, **Joe Hodgkins (KG5WRZ)**, **Don Billings (KF5TGX)**, and potential RWKer **Richard Bee (KG5DBA)**)

During many lunches you might run into **Mac Cody (AE5PH)** who would love to mentor you on the hardware and methods for making satellite QSOs, or **Bill Reed (NX5R)** who can bring you up to speed on the latest AMSAT technology and launch schedules, or **Sam Wash (N9ZMK)** who would be happy to share his tips and techniques used to homebrew his battery back-up power supply or his, nearly complete, Bluetooth enabled portable boom box.

**Steve Fried (WA2QCV)** is a regular lunch attendee who is often found in the middle of a group of hams reminiscing about the good old days. They also spend a fair amount of time discussing the best strategies, equipment, and techniques to get on the HF bands while living in the confines of an apartment or in a neighborhood with a restrictive HOA. Any ham facing similar constraints would do well to get to know those hams and get in on the conversation.

The above topics are just a few examples of what are discussed at a typical RWK "Hungry Hams" lunch. This lunch is a great opportunity to meet an Elmer, make some eyeball-QSOs, and rag chew about the latest ham goings-on. If you're free on Wednesdays around noon this is a great place to feed your body and fuel your amateur radio passion. **-CR-**

### Coming Events!

- 04-Feb Meeting On The Air
- 07-Feb Board of Directors Meeting
- 11-Feb General Meeting
- 16-Feb Breakfast, Southern Recipes Grill
- 19-Feb Extra Class Study Session 1
- 21-Feb Extra Class Study Session 2
- 21-Feb VE Session
- 26-Feb Extra Class Study Session 3
- 28-Feb Extra Class Study Session 4
- 02-Mar Irving Amateur Radio Hamfest
- 06-Apr HamEXPO, Belton, TX
- 17-May Hamvention, Xenia, OH
- 07-Jun Ham-Com 2019, Plano, TX

### RWK Wednesday "Hungry Hams" Lunch



The RWK lunch bunch meets each Wednesday at noon at Sonny Bryan's BBQ on West Campbell Rd. two blocks East of Coit Rd. All are invited to enjoy the benefit of a lot of "eyeball QSOs." NOTE: On the first Wednesday of the month, RWK helps the City of Richardson conduct siren tests, so lunch is delayed until around 12:30 P.M. If you go often, you should get your "frequent customer" card. If you don't yet have one, get one, for a free sandwich and cobbler after 10 purchases of any kind. Of course, members of other ham clubs and guests are very welcome to join in the fun and fellowship.

# The President's Corner January 2019

By John Di Filippo, AF5MN

The President's Dinner this year exceeded all expectations. We had 67 member along with 44 of their guests for a President's Dinner record of 111 attendees. The venue was wonderful (we had a private room), the food was delicious, and the price was right. The RWK kicked-in a little over \$900 in order to keep the member pricing down to a reasonable level. **Bill Owens (AD5EW)** and **Hal Wolff (N5BT)** deserve all the credit for finding, and booking, such a great venue. **Doug Kilgore (KD5OUG)** did a great job collecting the photos for the slide show, acting as official photographer at the dinner, as well as charming local merchants into generously donating gift cards.



John Di Filippo AF5MN presents Bill Owens AD5EW with the 2018 Warren Bruene Outstanding Service Award

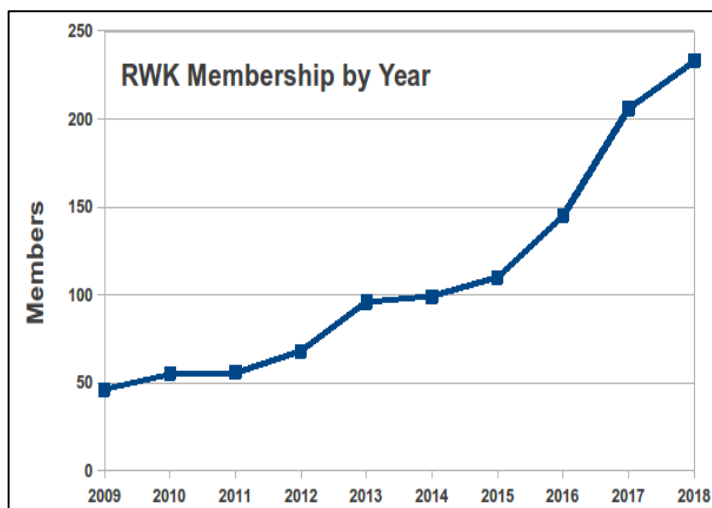
A highlight of the Dinner is always the presentation of the Warren Bruene Award for Outstanding Service. **Warren Bruene (W5OLY SK)** was a giant in the field of HF communication and the closest thing to a celebrity we've had in the RWK. The idea for the Bruene Award was first proposed in 2014 as a way for RWK members to recognize a fellow ham for outstanding contributions to the klub during the previous year.

This year it was my distinct honor to present the award to **Bill Owens (AD5EW)**. From a field of many worthy candidates, Bill was overwhelmingly chosen by his fellow RWK klub members as the most deserving of this recognition.

We gave away nearly \$700 in prizes including \$210 in gift cards ranging from Tanner Electronics, to Starbucks, to Sonny Bryan's, to Southern Recipes Grill, to Chili's/Maggiano's, and Canes. Long time members **Marvin (KA5HMI)** and **Jana (KE5HMI) Brooke** were kind enough to generously donate the two \$25 gift cards to Chili's/Maggiano's. Our grand prizes at the event were a Swan SW-240 SSB Transceiver immaculately restored by RWK member **Rick Ashton (W5RAA)** and an Acurite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Station donated by **Danny Siminiuk (K5CG)**. **Mark Beebe (W5YF)**, who is somewhat of a vintage ham equipment aficionado, won the Swan SW-240 and **David Cummings (WA5TET)** was our other grand prize winner taking home the weather station.

## Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics

The stats have been compiled and, in the words of Mr. Miyagi, 2018 was a "pretty okay" year for the RWK. For the younger members of the klub who don't understand the significance of that quote, you'll just have to watch the original 1984 Karate Kid to hear Mr. Miyagi (played by Pat Morita) utter those words to Daniel-san. You don't remember Pat Morita? He also played Arnold on Happy Days. You don't know about Happy Days either? Oh, never mind.



The RWK started 2018 with 206 members and finished with 233. That's a 13% increase over 2017 and marks a decade of continuous growth. It's hard to believe that in 2009 we only had 46 members and now we are the 3rd largest amateur radio club in Texas.

Much of our success through the years stems from a dedicated core of supportive members and from our fantastic relationship with the City of Richardson. The CoR generously lets us use many of their resources which helps us achieve a much bigger footprint in the NTX amateur radio community than we might otherwise have. We are grateful to City of Richardson employees and fellow RWK members **Scott Greeson (KG5MKC)**, **Kevin Sims (KD5YVL)**, and **Curtis Poovey (KF5PWZ)** for their continued support.

### Community Recognition

Speaking of the City of Richardson, the RWK recently received a thank you letter from the Richardson Independent School District's Board of Trustees thanking us for our \$235 gift for the AP Capstone Satellite Project. Our very own **Max Pincu (KG5PKX)** is working on this project and has agreed to give us a short update at our upcoming February general meeting. I hope you can attend and hear how your generous donations are helping RISD students like Max connect, learn, grow, and succeed.

The klub has also achieved some level of geographic recognition because of some of our member's efforts. **Donald Sonnefeld (KD2FIL)**, from Amherst NY, is secretary of K2BSA and recently spotted **Danny Siminiuk's (K5CG)** HamClubOnline User Guide. K2BSA is a nationwide association dedicated to extending the reach of amateur radio within the Scouting movement. Donald liked Danny's user guide so much that he asked if he could use a slightly modified version for K2BSA users. Of course we said yes as long as they give Danny and the RWK credit for the original work.

We also recently received an email from RWK member **Bob Beudet (W1YRC)** who is now a Rhode Island ARRL Section Manager and on the DX Advisory Committee. Bob is an Amateur Extra license holder who was an RWK member when he lived in Dallas and he remained a member even after retiring back home to RI. When Bob received **Beau Williamson's (N5PY)** Extra Class License Study Group announcement via HamClubOnline he thought it was great. Bob asked if he could use Beau's materials to conduct similar classes up in New England. Of course Beau said yes as long as he and the klub get credit for the original work.

### T-Shirts

**Albert Barrios (KI5CAD)** has only been an RWK member since November of 2018 but he has already offered his services to generate decals and clothing with the RWK logo. Since we couldn't locate a decent high-resolution version of our logo, Albert had to recreate a new one from scratch. With that complete, Albert is now organizing a bulk decal and t-shirt order in the near future. Long-term plans are to get a version of our logo installed at vendors like HamThreads.com so that our members can order RWK logoed hats, shirts, jackets, vests, etc. The advantage to this will be that each member can customize their apparel with our logo along with their name, call-sign, etc. I showed off a t-shirt prototype made by Albert at our 2019 Winter Field Day event and plan to raffle it off at the upcoming February general meeting. It should fit anyone in the klub as long as they wear an XL.

Don't forget to join us at the 11-Feb meeting where local ham David Dennis, N5BOC will discuss the latest digital hotspot technology. I had the opportunity to see him present at the DARC and it was very informative. Learn how David got involved with DMR, what lead him to build his first MMDVM board, and how he designs and produces them.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue of the Chawed Rag and remember that we are always looking for members to step up and volunteer their time and talents for upcoming events like Summer Field Day Chairman, or writing an article for the Chawed Rag. I can't wait to hear from you.

73 de,  
John Di Filippo, AF5MN  
President, The Richardson Wireless Klub  
[president@k5rwx.org](mailto:president@k5rwx.org)

**-CR-**

## Welcome New Members!

Andrew T "Andy" Damiano KG5SKI  
Elizabeth A Mc Fadden K5LIZ  
Kenneth R "Ken" Moseley AE1E  
William R "Russel" Martin KB5CQT

# RWK VE Team 2018 Year End Results

## by Bill Owens, AD5EW

It has been my privilege to represent The Richardson Wireless Klub for the last 5 and ½ years as the VE Liaison and Session Manager. I am confident that **Don Klick, KG5CK** will do a fine job as our next Liaison, and I look forward to contributing to the team in whatever manner he would like me to serve.

RWK and the VE Team, has had the good fortune of having a dedicated and consistent Team of VE's. The Team's friendliness and helpfulness, coupled with its experience in helping candidates month after month, has produced a VE Team that all of us should be proud.

I have pulled some numbers together that reflect how we served our Team, Klub and the community.

In 2018, 16 participating VE's contributed 409 volunteer hours to testing, grading and administering the VE program.

The Team's work contributed 50% of the Klub's new membership!! Yea Team!!!!

Here is a summary of the year's results:

Num. of Elements	Num. Of Candidates	New / Upgrade	Brand New Ham	Tech	Gen	Extra
102	80	76	47	44	19	13

Here are the VE's that made this happen:

**JF Bedard-WB5JF, Katherine Blankenburg-KB8DAA, Don Bowen-K5LHO, John Di Filippo-AF5MN, David Hartwig-KG5YXA, Don Klick-KG5CK, Mike Lochabay-KI5ALV, Russell Martin-KB5CQT, Jim McCasland-KC5BZY, David Mehrl-AF5DM, Dick Morgan-K6RAH, Leonard Pruitt-KG5DNO, Dwight Ramsey-KE5SAS, Dave Russell-W2DMR, Bill Werner-AE5FM.**

I will be looking forward to working with our Team in 2019.

Happy New Year!

73, **Bill Owens, AD5EW**, VE Liaison (Retired)

**Editor's Note:** Below are additional statistics provided by **Don Klick (KG5CK)** on the RWK VE Program from inception in 2012 to EOY 2018:

### 2012 - 2018 totals:

509 Elements  
 391 Candidates  
 364 New and upgraded licenses  
 234 Brand new licenses  
 1788 VE volunteer hours

**-CR-**

### Results from the 17-Jan-2019 VE Session:

Candidates Served: 3  
 Total Exam Elements: 3  
 New License Class Earned: 3  
 Brand new licenses: 3  
 License Class Breakdown:  
 Technician: 3

## VE Ham Exam Sessions

The Richardson Wireless Klub holds license exam sessions on the third Thursday evening of each month, starting at 7pm. We have an excellent group and the numbers that sit for tests is growing each month.

**Know someone who might like to become a ham?**

Please tell him/her about The RWK VE program. Our VE testing project also has produced quite a few new RWK members. We're anxious to help new hams learn and enjoy!

**Interested in helping with VE testing?**

An open book orientation exam for Volunteer Examiners is all it takes to receive ARRL certification. If you are a General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra, why not get your accreditation?

For more information, contact Don Click at [rwkhamtest@gmail.com](mailto:rwkhamtest@gmail.com)

# The RWK Saturday Breakfast at the Southern Recipes Grill

by Philip Cook (KA5GKL)

The RWK Breakfast is always on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 8am, at the Southern Recipes Grill, located at 621 W Plano Pkwy #229, Plano, TX 75075.

Unfortunately this month's RWK Saturday Breakfast fell on the same Saturday as the Cowtown Hamfest in Ft. Worth so many of the regulars had a hard decision to make. But a few breakfast regulars couldn't pass up the food or the camaraderie at the Southern Recipes Grill in Plano.



Attendees for the January Saturday Breakfast are pictured above (right to left): **Bill Owens (AD5EW)**, **Steve Michalec, Jr (WA4HEL)**, **Gene Rodgers (W5FFA)**, **Birl Smith (KF5TSK)**, **David Seals (N5FU)**, **Don Bowen (K5LHO)**, **Philip Cook (KA5GKL)**, **Mac Cody (AE5PH)**, and **Dale Turner (W5NOU)**. **-CR-**

## "Radio Scouting" with Amateur Radio



Amateur Radio needs younger hams to get on board. Help promote radio to scouts in your area. To learn more check out these radio scouting sites:

[www.k2bsa.net](http://www.k2bsa.net) - National Site

<http://circleten.or/circle-ten-radio> - local BSA site for radio scouting in Richardson

## RWK Siren Testing Services

The City of Richardson tests emergency sirens on first Wednesdays, at noon (weather permitting). We do not conduct the test if the weather looks threatening, to avoid confusing residents. Hams assist each month by going to a designated siren, checking into the net on 147.120 MHz, watching and listening to the performance of the siren, then reporting on the net. Most sirens have an assigned ham, but there often are unassigned sirens. New hams are welcome to participate and learn!

**If you can help with siren tests, please contact Don Bowen K5LHO, 972-235-3063, [sirentest@k5rwk.org](mailto:sirentest@k5rwk.org)**

## A lending library like no other!

Below are some of the things the RWK has to lend to members. Contact a board member for details.

- Kenwood TS-590SG (kit includes a RadioSPort headset and power supply)
- Kenwood TS-440S/AT (kit includes a Heil ProSet Headset and power supply)
- LDG 1000ProII Antenna Tuner
- Balun Designs 4:1 OCF Balun
- Daiwa CN-108HP Dual needle SWR meter
- Bird 43 Wattmeter
- PowerWerx PowerPole 12VDC Analyzer
- Baofeng UV-82HP Handy Talkie (currently on loan)
- Rig Expert AA-30 Antenna Analyzer (currently on loan)
- LDG 100ProII Antenna Tuner (currently on loan)

## Help RWK with 'AmazonSmile'!

**Smile.Amazon.com** is the website to use when making purchases on Amazon! Once you subscribe to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate 0.5% of your [purchases](http://smile.amazon.com) to The Richardson Wireless Klub! Sweet! **Amazon pays The RWK with every purchase!**  
**Keep up the good work!**

Support  
The Richardson  
Wireless Klub.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

[amazon smile](http://smile.amazon.com)

**Click <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1575597>  
to register on-line now!**

# I Heard it on k5rwk@groups.io

by John Di Filippo, AF5MN

There are only 168 hams that have joined [k5rwk@groups.io](mailto:k5rwk@groups.io) which means that a significant percentage of the klub's membership is missing out on some fairly interesting email traffic.

Just take a look at the two threads below to see what you've been missing. If those topics interest you and you want to see more like it in the future, then you need to get plugged into [k5rwk@groups.io](mailto:k5rwk@groups.io) and [www.hamclubonline.com](http://www.hamclubonline.com) (see the end of this article for instructions on how you can join both).

In the meantime, I've reprinted excerpts from some of the email threads below:

## AREDN Updates

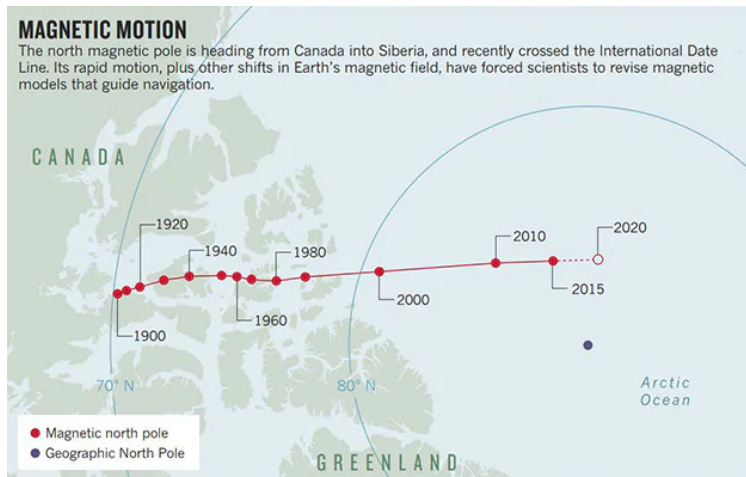
RWker Mark Waldron (N5TXZ) just announced on [k5rwk@groups.io](mailto:k5rwk@groups.io) that a new feature has been added to the AREDN network firmware. When viewing the SNR graph you can now enable a tone that increases in frequency as the SNR increases and decreases in frequency as the SNR drops. According to Mark, this feature will be a great aid pointing your antenna, especially when you aren't near a computer.

Mark also described several other tweaks, and software and hardware releases such as:

- Mikrotik recently changed the definition of one of their models internally, and the firmware had to be adjusted so it would load properly when it encountered that new string.
- Rocket M2s have started to show up on the market running the XW hardware. A definition for this new product was added to the firmware so it would load properly.
- There have been a number of bug fixes for small issues added, too.
- If you're still running 3.18.9.0, try a nightly build. They're stable and have some nifty features.

## Earth's Shifting Magnetic Pole

There was also some spirited email traffic among various RWK members on [k5rwk@groups.io](mailto:k5rwk@groups.io) regarding Earth's Shifting Magnetic Pole. This is a fairly mysterious phenomenon and could have some impact on smart-phone GPS capabilities.



**Doug Kilgore (KD5OUG):** The magnetic north pole is moving! Besides invalidating the 'magnetic declination' numbers on your hiking maps, it has real consequences for some of your electronic devices that use magnetic field measurements as part of their direction calculations. Link: <https://spaceweatherarchive.com/2019/01/16/earths-shifting-magnetic-pole-affects-your-cell-phone/>

**Dave Russell (W2DMR):** Thanks for sending the very interesting and useful information on the Magnetic pole movement and intensity. It looks like the compass deviation in the Dallas area hasn't changed too much.

**Tim Bratton (K5RA):** The movement of the poles has been known for a long time. Topo maps used to list declination along with a rate of change of declination. Apparently the news now is that the rate of movement of the magnetic north pole is accelerating. The last thing I saw about this stated that mag pole was moving in the direction of N pole, which means that the declination is decreasing.

The software of my iPhone gets updated several times a year. If they can't figure out how to account for new declinations, or program a mini-app to compute declination from your location and the known location of the mag pole, then maybe someone could write an app that we could buy. Want something else to worry about? The speed of rotation of the earth is changing (plus and minus). Check out the history of leap seconds in Wiki if you are interested.

Conversations like the ones above happen all the time among our members. If you haven't opted-in on [k5rwk@groups.io](mailto:k5rwk@groups.io) or [www.hamclubonline.com](http://www.hamclubonline.com) then you're missing out on some really great



member interactions. See the instructions below for how to make sure you're seeing all the klub email traffic:

**k5rwk@groups.io**

Go to <https://k5rwk.groups.io/g/main> and click on the "Join This Group" button below. Login or Create an account and wait for the approval from a group owner.

**www.HamClubOnline.com**

Go to [www.hamclubonline.com](http://www.hamclubonline.com) and login. If you don't remember your password use the "Forgot Password" link. Once you login, look under Options and click "Edit My Account". Now look for "Click here to change your e-mail delivery status". Click or go to [https://secure.hamclubonline.com/email\\_delivery.php](https://secure.hamclubonline.com/email_delivery.php) and review your Current E-Mail Status: "(OK, receiving all account and club communications)" or set it to your preference. **-CR-**



## Corrigendum

By John Di Filippo, AF5MN

I finally found a way to confirm if anyone reads the Chawed Rag. That way is to make a mistake! And that's exactly what I did in the lead article about Winter Field Day in last months newsletter. I mistakenly wrote that 2018 was the first year that the RWK participated in WFD.

**Mac Cody (AE5PH)** noticed that "glaring error" and quickly notified all interested parties. He correctly pointed out that the RWK DID participate in the 2017 Winter Field Day event which was held at Canyon Creek Park in Richardson. I don't know why I didn't remember that since I participated in that event. For the short amount of time we were on the air we didn't do half bad. We were 17th overall in the Outdoor group and 5th in the 1-O category.

I also mentioned that Winter Field Day was first held in 2017 by WFDA, a non-ARRL affiliated organization. While this was technically true, it didn't reflect the actual history of the WFD event. So **Bill Richards (KM5VZ)** followed-up Mac's email with a little background letting me know that Winter Field Day originally started in 2007 by the SPAR group and was run by them until 2015. The current WFDA organization took over in 2016 and has hosted the latest three WFD events.

So thanks to the dedicated few who read the Chawed Rag for letting me know that I had misstated some pretty important facts.

**Pro-tip:** An erratum or corrigendum is a correction of a published text. As a general rule, publishers issue an erratum for a production error (i.e., an error introduced during the publishing process) and a corrigendum for an author's error. **-CR-**

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## RWK Extra Class License Study Group Begins 19-Feb-2019

by Beau Williamson, N5PY

- Have you been wanting to upgrade from General to Extra but something always got in the way?
- Did you start and stop lessons and eventual only completed a few and then give up?
- Did you tend to forget what you learned in the previous lesson?
- Did you find it hard to stay motivated to study?

The Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) thinks that they have the solution to the above issues to get you through all of the Extra Class License material and pass your Extra Class License Exam.

The Extra Class Study Group will be held at a meeting room at the Delta-V company in Richardson at 1870 Firman Drive which is between Collins and Campbell. Fourteen Study Group sessions will be held from 6:00PM to 8:30PM on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning February 19, 2019. The study group will end on Thursday, April 4, 2019 when the Extra Class test will be given by the RWK VE Team.

For more information click this [LINK](#) **-CR-**

# Shack O' The Month

## Grant H. Laughlin, W5XJ

Who says your shack can only be located at your house. Not Grant. His philosophy is, "if you have a bike, then you can take your radio with you!"

These days folks want to exercise and have fun at the same time. Why not take your 2M/440 along for the ride? It is easy to do and you'll have a blast while getting in some exercise.



QSOs while mobile. A heads-up mount makes it all easy! His setup is a homebrew, GND independent 2M vertical dipole. Note the lower half below the antenna mount in the photo on the left.



Above is a close up of the radio and mic setup. The clip on design makes it a snap to take the radio on and off. The mic clips to the brake cable on the handlebar. Mounted in this ways allows Grant to easily see all aspects of the radio operation.

The H/T is mounted to the bike using [Lido Mounts](#). [Lido Mounts](#) offers a wide array of mobile mounting options for hands-free devices, receivers, microphones, and more!

For the coax and antenna mount, Grant used zip ties for the coax and a bike rack to mount the antenna. He also uses a speaker mic to facilitate

A vertical dipole is very efficient and gets out like a hose and the hand mic makes for clear contacts! This allows Grant to truly put the pedal to the metal and go key down!

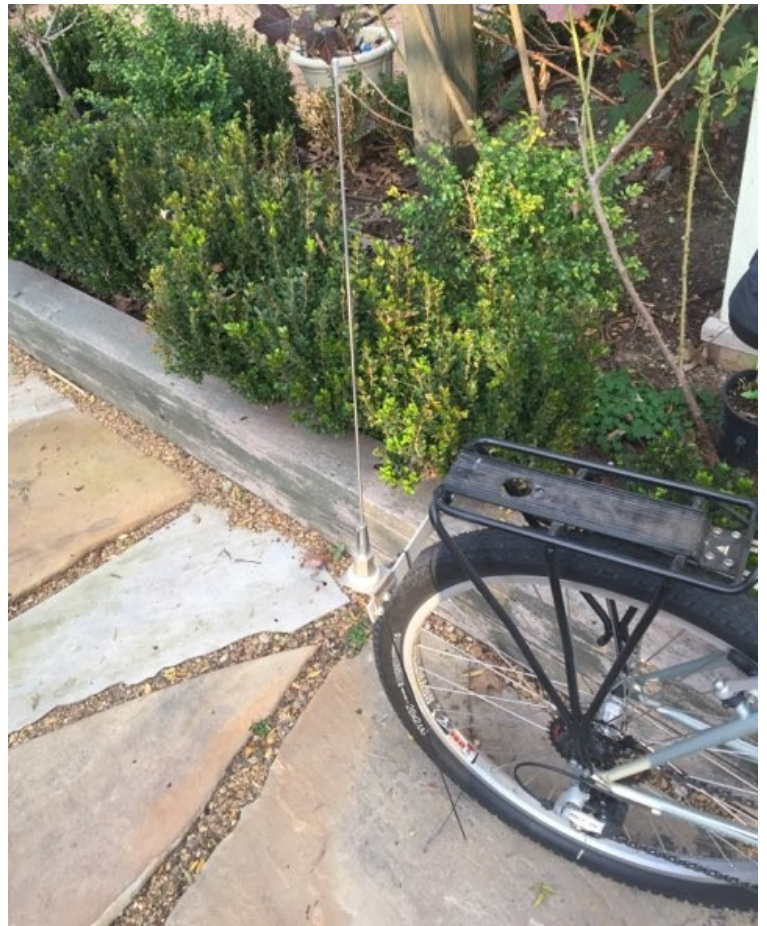
When rain strikes you can remove the radio and place it into a water proof bag. Bag removed to show mount.

## Shack O' The Month (continued)



Above shows a front to back view of the H/T. Note the [Lido](#) mount and the easy coax connection to the H/T.

Below is a close-up of the homebrew mount made from junk box parts for 1/4 wave 2M vertical dipole.



Above shows the antenna mount which allows for easy access to a bike bag that slides on track.

73 and happy biking! DE W 5 X J

The RWK wants you...

