

# The **HOTLINE**

Official Newsletter for the  
**Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club**  
Waco, Texas

**FEBRUARY 2023**  
**VOLUME XLVIII, NUMBER 2**

## ***Meeting Notice***

HOTARC will hold its monthly *Meeting of Members* at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 23, 2023 **in person** at the Clubhouse and via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform. Please check your email or the Members Only section of the website for login information.

Howdy HOTARC family!

It's been a busy month for sure with national headlines including the Ohio train contamination disaster, and F22s may have shot down a ham radio balloon over Canada! We still had some freezing nights this month, but signs of Spring are certainly everywhere!

Some good takeaways from conversations this week: how are you prepared for infrastructure type emergencies? Do you have a way to communicate if the power - and even internet - is not available? Also, now everyone wants to learn about the wonderful world of ham radio with balloons!!

We got some great input from the group last month - thank you all for participating after the meeting.

Important! We have the Baylor Bearathon coming up in just a month: Saturday, March 25th. We are expecting to be once again helping them this year, providing radio communication from the various checkpoints along the race. I had a great time helping out last year, and HIGHLY recommend you make a point to do so this year as well. This is really a fun and great way to practice and use your radio for something useful in real time - different from rag chewing, random contacts and checking into nets! Please sign up to participate!

Have you checked out the YACHT youth club Saturday night at 7:00pm? We currently have them linked to our Central Texas group of repeaters. My kids were surprised to hear how many kids around the world were participating.

Enjoy the coming Spring!

73 and God bless, de

Seth Boren  
KI5QEH  
HOTARC President



# HOTARC Meeting of Members

## January 26, 2023

President Seth Boren KI5QEH President called the meeting to order at 7:01PM in person and in the ZOOM Meeting Room. Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW gave the invocation.

President Seth Boren KI5QEH led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 12 members present and 3 visitors. John Lowe K5MTP, George Lopez AI5JE, and Johnny Skinner K5NEP.

Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW moved and Jeb Leutwyler KG5WHS seconded to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented in the HOTLINE. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurers Report for December 2022 as published in the HOTLINE was filed.

### Committee Reports:

- ARES/RACES: New schedule published.
- Trailer Committee: Nothing to report
- Repeater Committee: No report
- Web Committee: Catching up on dues, new members
- ATV: Planning to increase Slow Scan/ATV activity.  
Built an interface that will also work with Echolink and Winlink.
- Education Committee: No report
- Public Relations: None
- Special Events: None

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business.

New Business: One new member application, George Lopez AI5JE. Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW moved to accept the new member application. Jeb Leutwyler KG5WHS seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: President Seth Boren KI5QEH adjourned the meeting at 7:16pm.

After meeting: Discussed goals for the upcoming year.

Submitted by Mike Davis NA5X  
HOTARC Secretary

## The Treasurer's Report

Heart o' Texas Amateur Radio Club			
Treasurers Report: January 31, 2023			
<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>January 1, 2023</b>		<b>\$ 11,369.14</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Full Membership Dues Paypal @ 5	\$	150.00	
<b>Total received</b>	\$	150.00	
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$ 150.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Parts replacement at tower 1/9/2023	\$	750.64	
Paypal Fee 1/28/2023	\$	5.45	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 756.09</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>January 31, 2023</b>		<b>\$ 10,763.05</b>
Includes FF	1/31/2023	\$	330.61
Flower Fund Total	1/31/2023	\$	330.61
Submitted by Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW			

# McLennan County A.R.E.S.

by Paul Collins KG5DHS  
McLennan County Emergency Coordinator



Hi HOTARC!

I went out this morning and our first daffodil was already blooming. Looks like we are transitioning from winter to spring. Even though we are still in a drought, it won't be long until we start having severe weather again!

Thank you to everyone for participating in ARES and for being available for training nets and severe weather outbreaks!

As always, the ARES team is ready to deploy if needed. Thanks to everyone who is part of the team.



If you are interested in becoming a member of McLennan County ARES, go to the HOTARC Web site under the frequently asked questions and download the application. E-mail or mail the completed application according to the instructions listed at the bottom of the application. Your application will be processed and you will receive an ARES ID Card. As always, the ARES team is ready to deploy if needed. Thanks to everyone who is part of the team!



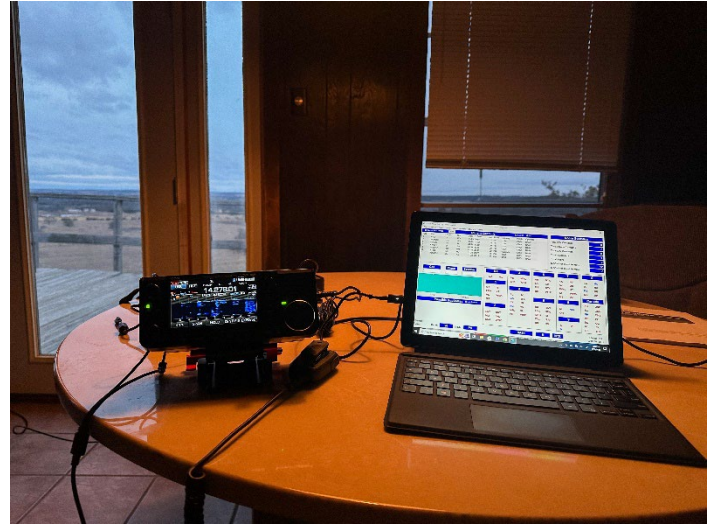
**Baker's Dozen counties**

If you are interested in becoming a member of McLennan County ARES, go to the HOTARC Web site under the frequently asked questions and download the application. E-mail or mail the completed application according to the instructions listed at the bottom of the application. Your application will be processed and you will receive an ARES ID Card. Check in to the Weekly McLennan County ARES net every Monday at 8:00 PM on the 145.15 repeater (tone 123.0). If you have a sincere desire to help, registration is necessary before the next emergency, not after it occurs. We are also beginning to include our 70 cm repeater 442.875 MHz (input at +5.0 MHz, tone 123 Hz). Check in to the Weekly McLennan County ARES net every Monday at 8:00 PM on the 145.15 repeater (tone 123.0). If you have a sincere desire to help, registration is necessary before the next emergency, not after it occurs. We are also beginning to include our 70 cm repeater 442.875 MHz (input at +5.0 MHz, tone 123 Hz).

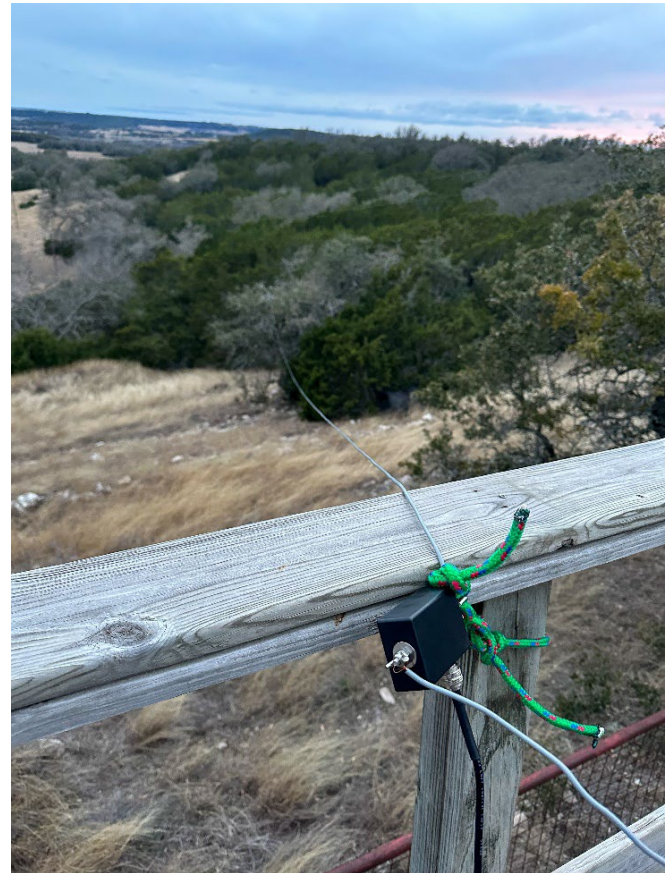
# Winter Field Day 2023 After Action Report

by Mike Davis  
NA5X

I was a little more prepared for Winter Field Day this year, mostly because I knew about it and didn't just stumble upon it. I ended up waiting until Saturday morning to head out since it didn't officially start until afternoon. My initial plan was to use the SuperAntenna but it hasn't functioned properly since summer Field Day. I think it must have taken a tumble off the club trailer when we were trying to troubleshoot cables that final Sunday morning. SWR is just all over the place. I need to send it in for a check. Nevertheless, I had my EFHW matching box with me and some wire I had found in the garage so that's what I ended up with. My radio was the IC-705 with my AH-705 tuner. I had a laptop but ran into connection issues. More on that in a bit. It was all powered, save for the laptop, with the Jackery Explorer 240.



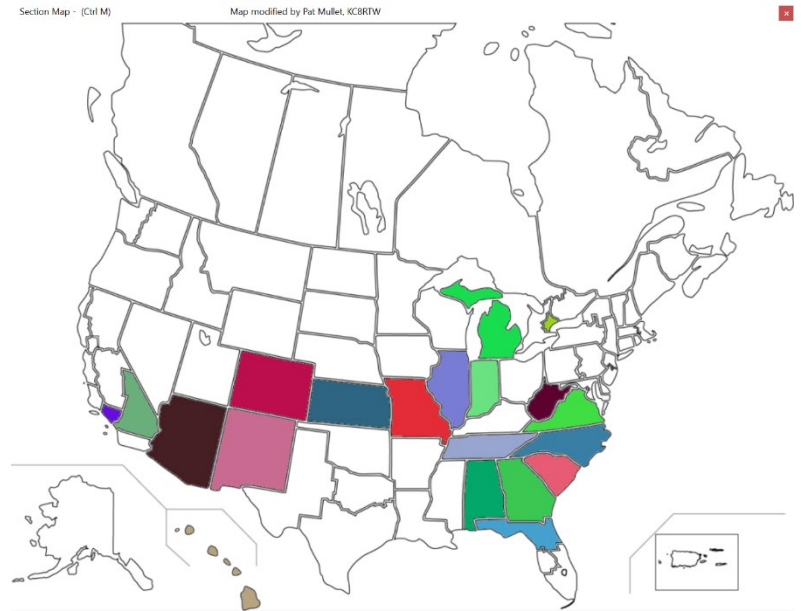
I ran the antenna as a sloper oriented East/West mostly because our cabin sits high on a hill. I neglected to bring a push up pole so I ran it into a tree down the hill. I was able to hit either coast, so I'm pretty happy with the performance. The radio was powered using the 12v lighter plug on the Jackery so I could run the full 10W. Again, I'm pretty happy with the performance at both 5W and 10W on SSB. It takes a lot of work to break through a pile up but persistence pays off.



KM4ACK had issued an APRS/Winlink challenge that I had hoped to participate in. I had sent the initial message over APRS from the mobile radio. When I went to pull info down from Winlink on the 705, anytime the computer keyed the radio the USB would disconnect. I had several different cables and tried them all to no avail. I tried VaraAC and even tried an FT8 connection with the same results; so the laptop became for logging only. After returning home, I tried to duplicate the issue, the exact same setup save for the antenna, I just used a dummy load, and I could not recreate the problem. I'm not sure how to handle that going forward except maybe a spare laptop.

All told, I ended up with about 27 QSOs over five hours on Saturday and just about an hour on Sunday with most of them on 20M. The Jackery was still at 84% battery when I shut down the station so that's pretty good. My contacts were mostly across the middle of the country as far as N-S goes as you can see by the map. I hit bot Hawaii and a Canadian station just outside of Niagra Falls.

Over all, I found the weekend to be successful. To me, that means I learned something, I had fun, and I got to play radio. I went in to the weekend with a question Bill had asked about being able to deploy in an emergency. I believe I answered that night that I was prepared. I don't think I am there yet. Without the SuperAntenna, I didn't have VHF and HF capability with the radio. And the connection failure took Winlink out of my toolbox. I'll keep working at it and eventually come up with a working solution.



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The HOTLINE is the monthly newsletter of the Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club (HOTARC), Inc., a nonprofit corporation, chartered by the State of Texas and principally located in Waco. It is permissible to use any of the original material contained herein provided proper credit is given to the source.

Edited and Published by Mike Davis NA5X, [mike@na5x.com](mailto:mike@na5x.com)

## ***HOTARC 2023 Board of Directors***

**President:** Seth Boren, KI5QEH

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**Past-Pres.:** Jeb Leutwyler, KG5WHS

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**Director (2025):** Jason Fedlam, KQ5UX

[Director1@hotarc.org](mailto:Director1@hotarc.org)

**Director (2024):** Barbara Leutwyler,

[Director3@hotarc.org](mailto:Director3@hotarc.org)

**Director (2023):** Drew Dickenson, KE5UBO

[Director2@hotarc.org](mailto:Director2@hotarc.org)

### **Club Repeaters**

145.15 MHz (input at -600 kHz, tone 123 Hz)

146.98 MHz (input at -600 kHz, D-Star)

442.875 MHz (input at +5.0 MHz, tone 123 Hz)