



The **HOTLINE**

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

Volume XLV, Number 7

July 2020

From the President

Happy 4th of July!! I know I'm late on those greetings, but I hope everyone had a good and safe celebration of our Independence Day.

By now I'm sure you have seen Clint's email about the potential addition of a DMR repeater on our antenna's. I hope you are excited as some of us are. Toby at Troy Radio has offered to build us and donate to us the repeater with our club call sign. Stay Tune for further news on this!!!!



In addition to that I have accepted a donation from a local ham (non-member) of a Icom 703 qrp transceiver (no microphone), a Radio Shack Antenna rotator and a 6 meter beam. So we will be having that for auctions and all monies will go to the club. Mike, WB7SKK, has checked most items out and they are working.

This is some of the new things going on in the club. I will say that at this point it looks as if the annual Ice Cream social in August will be cancelled as we are still not meeting in person.

Be sure to drink lots of fluids and stay out of the heat as much as possible as we want your smiling faces on our Zoom meetings and speaking of the meetings a huge THANKS goes out to Clint for setting them up.

73's
Dwan Needham
KE5JWY
President

Meeting Notice

HOTARC will hold its monthly *Meeting of Members* at 7:00 PM on Thursday June 25, 2020 via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform. Please check your email or the Members Only section of the website for login information.



For the Record...

HOTARC Meeting of Members June 25, 2020

President Dwan Needham KE5JWY called the meeting to order at 7:07pm on the ZOOM Virtual Meeting Room.

President Dwan Needham KE5JWY led us in the pledge of allegiance

Jim Jud, KA5QKL gave an invocation.

16 members were present. no visitors were present:

Previous Meeting Minutes. A motion to accept the Minutes from May 28, 2020 as published in the HOTLINE was made by Jim Jud KA5QKL seconded by Mike Needham WB7SKK and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report. The Treasurers Report for May 2020 as published in the HOTLINE was filed.

Committee Reports:

- **ARES:** no report
- **Trailer Committee:** Drew Dickenson KE5UBO reported on maintenance needs.
- **Repeater Committee:** Clint Anderson AE5CA reported that we have new antennas installed and working at the Eddy tower
- **Web Committee:** Drew Dickenson KE5UBO reported that the web is working
- **ATV:** David Bush reported that progress is still continuing
- **Education Committee:** no report
- **Public Relations:** nothing to report
- **Special Events:** Clint Anderson AE5CA reminded us that ARRL Field Day is this weekend.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting Adjournment: Drew Dickenson KE5UBO moved for adjournment. President Dwan Needham KE5JWY adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

After the meeting Clint Anderson AE5CA showed pictures of the work done on the antennas at the tower in Eddy.

Submitted by
Jeb Leutwyler KG5WHS

The Treasurer Reports...

Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report: June 2020	
Starting Balance June 1 (in bank)	\$ 6,069.36
Income	
Interest	\$ 0.05
Dues	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 0.05
Expenses	
Check 1005 - Tower Crew	\$ 2,000.00
PayPal fees	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 2,000.00
Ending Balance June 30	\$ 4,069.41
Uncleared Activity	
Interest	\$ 0.05
Dues	-
PayPal Fees	-
Amount in Acct as of July 19	\$ 4,069.46
Includes Flower Fund	\$ 181.35
Submitted by: Clint Anderson, AE5CA HOTARC Treasurer	

by Paul Collins KG5DHS
McLennan County Emergency
Coordinator

McLennan County A.R.E.S.

Hi HOTARC!

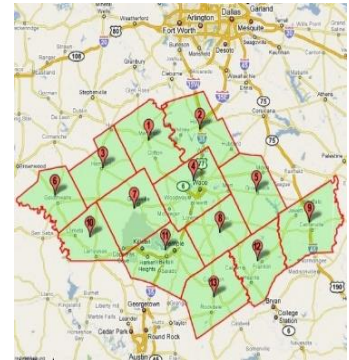
It's the Dog Days of Summer and we all are feeling the heat (and humidity)!



Remember to stay hydrated and protected from the sun. The UV index has been really high lately. Stay safe and enjoy the Texas heat!

If you want to participate in ARES, it's easy.

Go to the HOTARC Web site <http://www.hotarc.org/> under the frequently asked questions and download the application. E-mail or mail the completed



Baker's Dozen counties

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).

NO NEED TO DRILL FOR 12VDC

Larry Bush, W5NCD

I needed to install and power a VHF/UHF (i.e., 2m/440) transceiver in my car with a reliable and always-On 12VDC source. The cigarette lighter jack might be an option for you, but mine is currently in use, and in many makes of car, that source is not always On. I wanted to avoid drilling or squeezing a wire past the car's firewall to reach the car battery. Good news! I found a \$6 solution!

A quick history lesson. Since 2008, all vehicles in the US are required to implement *On-Board Diagnostics (OBD)*, referring to a vehicle's self-diagnostic and reporting capability, that allows a repair technician access to the status of the various sub-systems in the car. Early OBD versions simply flashed indicator lights (aka "idiot lights"). But the current OBD Level II (aka, OBD-II), required on all US-made cars since 1996, uses a **standardized communications port to provide real-time data and diagnostic trouble codes**. What caught my attention is the port: a *16-pin female J1962 connector*. You can always find the **OBD-II port** on the driver's side of the passenger compartment within 2-feet of the steering wheel. Go ahead! Climb under your steering column and find your own OBD-II port!

Making use of the OBD-II port. Figure 1 shows the pinout of the universal J1962 female connector. For our purposes, notice **pin 4** (ground) and **pin 16** (battery +12V). On my vehicle, pin 16 happens to be protected with a 20 amp fuse (Ha! The cigarette lighter fuse!) located under the hood. In any case, pin 16 is always "hot," even when your vehicle is parked, engine Off, without a key! So your auto mechanic can plug in and power his diagnostic cable from this +12V source, regardless of the engine running or not.

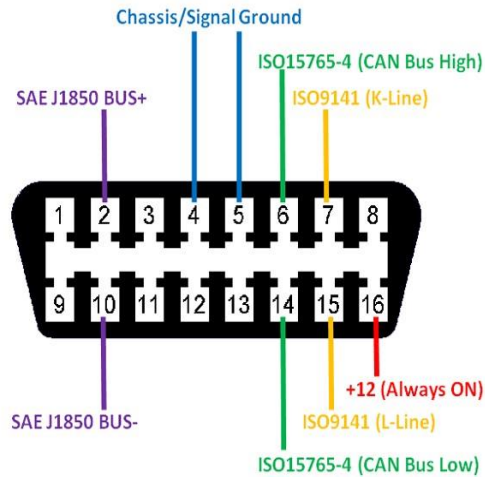


Figure 1. Pinout for J1962 connector used in OBD-II

THAT leads to my \$6 solution to my problem. At Amazon.com, search for: *AUTOS-FAMILY Universal Car OBD2 16Pin Connector* (or just use this link: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00X6TUD18/>) to find this inexpensive connector for your car’s OBD-II port. See Figure 2, available at the time of this writing for just \$5.99 (plus tax and shipping).



Figure 2. Autos-Family J1962 OBD-II connector



Figure 3. Open the connector and find pins 4 and 16

When you receive your male 16 pin connector, open the connector, as shown in Figure 3.

Connect your radio equipment power cable to pin 4 (ground) and pin 16 (12VDC), and you’re ready to enjoy your uninterrupted power source!

Field Day 2020

Clint Anderson, AE5CA

As of July 19 HOTARC Members have submitted the following scores to the ARRL for FD 2020:

AE5CA	594
K5IMC	2370
KC5PRG	70
KG5WHS	258
WA5IEX	892

For a total of 4184 points for HOTARC.

This year's Field Day was very different. I operated from a tent in my back yard. I had AC5CV and KI5EIW with me during the day on Saturday. We had the normal issues to work through on Field Day. We found a defective antenna and then some bad coax on my replacement antenna. Both were quickly resolved. Another interesting problem we found was RF noise coming from my DC to AC inverter in my solar power system. With the inverter completely unloaded it was

quiet. Put a little bit of a load on the inverter and it completely wiped out the bands. We overcame this problem by switching logging computers and putting the network equipment on shore power with the AC unit.

I hope each of you had a great Field Day. I am looking forward to when we can once again do Field Day together in a group.



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 KI5EIW, MikeKI5EIW@gmail.com

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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)

VE Testing

The HOTARC VEs have **NOT scheduled a test session** at this time. It is with an abundance of caution that we plan to follow the COVID-19 advisory against meetings. If any testing session is scheduled, our website will be one of the first places we will announce the testing session.

Contact: Linda Hynan, AC5QQ at 254-666-4873 or Linda.Hynan@UTSouthwestern.edu.