
OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2024_0427

The meeting called to order by Jeremy at 0912. Martin has stepped down as President. Jeremy won't be here next month due to prior commitments. Next month will be elections for President.

The Crossroads club in SW Houston is hosting a "Parks On The Air". 147.240 is the frequency they will operate on. HoustonPOTA is the Facebook page they use. They are going to use this page to coordinate upcoming Parks on the Air meetings.

Practical Antenna Modeling using MMANA GAL was presented by Stephen Flowers W2WF. The presentation should be on the Reflector &/or webpage at OFARC.org.

MMANA GAL is the software used for antenna modeling. This was all done by 3 HAM radio operators getting together to produce this software.

The cost is \$99. You can Google MMANA-GAL for various places to get the software. One location was https://mmana-gal.software.informer.com/1.2/#google_vignette. NO GUARANTEE that this is the best download. This implementation is based on NEC/MININEC Software. This software is not for Mac OS, but for Windows only.

As an alternative, there is EZNEC Pro7 and is free but has limitations as to how many antenna segments can be modeled.

An important part of radiation pattern modeling is the selection for ground conductivity. Conductivity is 5000 for salt water, 500 for fresh water. Standard conductivity in the program is 5.0. I'm not sure of the units.

The interesting part of this is the 3D modeling that will allow you to "aim" your antenna in the direction you hope to get the best transmission. It also gives you information on changing parts of your antenna as to the type of wire that you use to get to the point you want, and the different types of antennas can be compared.

CHIRP is free application program for programming VHF/UHF radios to work with Repeaters. It was demonstrated by Hal (KG5OIR). Mark (WB5ANN) was talking about Windows 11 having problems with CHIRP, in that you must make sure you have the correct drivers, and some of the cables need be updated with new firmware.

Using Repeater Tones: You can have a Repeater using different frequencies with different tones. Regarding the 147.000 Repeater, its duplex can use positive or negative offsets. In the club repeater list, the first 10 lines are the most used repeaters in the Houston area using our list of CLONED frequencies. You can customize the names. A ".CSV" file is the way you save the configuration. This is listed on our website at OFARC.Org (see the downloads tab).

Field Day is in June. We have a standing offer to do Field Day at the Red Cross. The office is set up with A/C and radios at the SW Freeway location, just off Kirby. Jeremy talked about a bunch of people want to get out and set up their radios. Please email him to let him know at: Jeremy@mpenner.com

Anthony asked about positions for the next meeting. Vacancies are President and VP. Let Dom know if you are interested in running the Tuesday Net.

Prizes were given for the longest contact on the OFARC contact contest. (Who won?)

More on Chirp:

Texas VHF-FM society maintains a list at www.txvhffm.org/repeaters/repeaters.php

Google searches for FM repeaters by state should get you a list of most state's repeaters. The Repeater Book has both a paid version and a free version of listings for repeater frequencies.

www.websdr.org is a software defined radio SDR that is available on the internet. This can be used for triangulation for finding the TRUE location of the transmitting location. You can also use this to monitor your own signal. Latency is 200 milliseconds or more for this Internet Station. The SDR has a spread spectrum display and is receiving only. They are not transmitting, they are just putting what they receive out onto the Internet. www.region6armymars.org/resources/solarweather.php Solar Propagation for 3k miles website.

End of meeting. 1122

Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN

