SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Red River Valley Amateur Radio Club

SATURDAY / SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Pledge & Prayer

Introductions

President
Mark Johnson - W5PTX

Vice President
Phillip Beall - W5EBC

Secretary
Kathy Beall - W5WON

Treasurer
Cindy Penry - KD5CCB

General Directors
Haskell Maroney - K5HRM
Bill Townsend - KJ5ABG
T. Wayne Moore - KC5KOH

Trustee
Kelly Collins - W5KJC

WELCOME

New members & guests

We’re glad you’re here. Please share your name, call sign if you have one, and what brings you to amateur radio.

ENGAGE • LEARN • CONNECT

CLUB REPORTS

Reports

Treasurer

Cindy Penny - KD5CCB

Current balance — update at meeting
Recent expenses — review
Dues status — member update

Secretary

Kathy Beall - W5WON

Previous minutes — approval
Membership changes — update
Correspondence — highlights

P&L YTD 2026

Reports

Profit and Loss

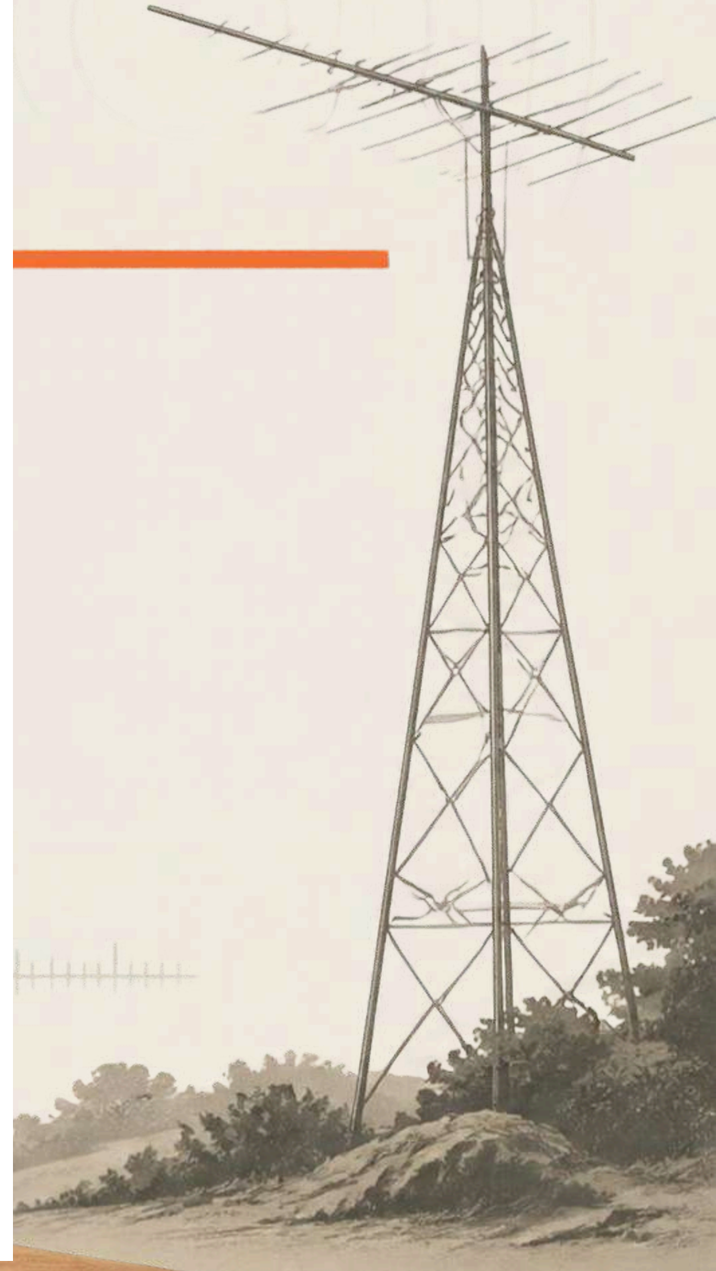
RedRiver ValleyARC

DateRange: Jan01,2026to Sep 25, 2026

Report Type: Accrual (Paid & Unpaid)

Current Balance:
$1692.58

ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2026 to Sep 25, 2026
Income	
Donations & 50/50 Drawing	$288.75
Membership Dues	$907.10
Uncategorized Income	$49.95
Total Income	**$1,245.80**
Total Cost of Goods Sold	**$0.00**
Gross Profit	**$1,245.80**
As a percentage of Total Income	100.00%
Operating Expenses	
Accounting Fees	$150.00
Insurance – Property	$649.65
Mailbox	$180.00
Sympathy	$338.16
Uncategorized Expense	$49.95
Website & Software	$266.88
Total Operating Expenses	**$1,634.64**
Net Profit	**-$388.84**
As a percentage of Total Income	-31.21%



CLUB BUSINESS

Business?

Old Business:

Any old business?

New Business:

Any New Business?

What is your setup?

VHF simplex: direct, local, ready

Simplex is station-to-station communication on one frequency — no repeater in the middle.

01 ANTENNA

What antenna do you use?

02 HEIGHT

Tower, Push-up-Pole, Eave of House?

03 SYSTEM

Radio, Meters, Amps, Coaz?

04 On The Air

Test from home, mobile and portable locations.

THE MAGIC BAND

6 meters: watch. call. log.

MONITOR BEACONS
CALL DURING OPENINGS
LOG GRID SQUARES
COMPARE ANTENNAS

List of 6M Beacons

(I didn’t find a list that seemed to be very current or usable. I you know of one, please let us know)

6-METER ANTENNAS & PROPAGATION

Vertical Polarization & The "Magic" Band

VERTICAL POLARIZATION

Vertical Polarization (Best for local FM club nets & mobile interoperability):

1/4-WAVE GROUND PLANE (SO-239 HOMEBREW)

Specs: Single 55-inch vertical element with four 57-inch 45-degree droop radials.

Advantage: Extremely cheap, rugged, omnidirectional, direct 50 ohm match.

J-POLE OR SLIM-JIM (300 OHM TWIN-LEAD OR 1/2" COPPER)

Specs: Approx. 14 feet overall height; self-contained matching stub requires no ground radials. Easy to hang from a tree branch or hoist up a fiberglass push-up pole.

THE 6-METER "MAGIC" BAND

The "Magic" Band:

Sporadic-E (E_s): Intense seasonal ionization in the E-layer (primary peak in May–July, minor winter burst in Dec–Jan) providing strong single-hop openings from 800 to 1,400+ miles.

Mode / Operating Style	Common Frequencies	Standard Polarization	Why It Matters
Local FM Simplex / Repeaters	52.525 MHz (Simplex Calling)	Vertical	Omni-directional pattern; mobile whip compatibility; zero cross-polarization loss against local handhelds/mobiles.
Weak-Signal SSB & CW	50.125 MHz (Calling)	Horizontal	Standard convention; provides 15–20 dB isolation from man-made local vertical RF noise.
Digital (FT8 / MSK144)	50.313 / 50.280 MHz	Horizontal or Vertical	Weak-signal decoding overcomes polarization mismatch; high-angle ionospheric reflections randomize wave angle.

What are you working on?

Station Projects

01 Member project plans

02 Station upgrades and builds

03 Antenna, equipment, and operating projects

04 What’s coming up next

ON THE CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

Autumn in Bonham

Saturday, October 3, 2026

ON THE CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

HamEXPO!©

"The friendliest Ham Radio swapfest in the world"

Dates:

October 2-3, 2026

(Spring 2027: April 2-3, 2027)

Location:

Bell County Expo Center (aka: Huntington Bank Expo)
301 W Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513

RRVARC

Christmas Party

December 11th at 6:00 PM

Magel’s Grill

OPEN FLOOR

Questions? Comments? Discussion.

THANK YOU

73

Mark Johnson
mark@w5ptx.com
903-495-2445