



A Monthly Report on the Activities of the Dallas Radio Control Club AMA Charter # 609

JUNE 2015

(OUR 58TH YEAR)

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 2, 7:30pm

Kleberg/Riley Recreation Center

1515 Edd Road (Off Hwy 175)

Mapsco Grid 69 A-M

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May 2015 Meeting Minutes

President Jimmy Davidson called the April meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Treasurer Gary Troxell presented his report. There were no dues payments received during May..

Old Business
NONE

New Business
NONE

Editor's Corner

For a bit of adventure, read the next two pages entitled **How to Find Your Way Around**

Commentary

Someone may read this newsletter at some time in the future and wonder why there was no news to report.

One of our local TV weather men reported that as of Friday, May 29, we were within 1.6 inches of setting an all-time record for recorded rainfall in this area. So far in the month of May, we have received in excess of 16 inches of rain.

Lakes and farm land that had been suffering from a multi-year draught are now faced with so much run-off water that lakes are overflowing and citizens in low lying areas are in danger of having flood waters damaging or destroying homes and endangering lives.

Let us all hope that we see the weather returning to what would be called "normal" soon.

Finding Your Way Around

If you find yourself at a location and you want to tell someone exactly where you are

OR

If you want to find the distance between two locations, there are various ways to get the answer you are looking for.

- You can use a GPS device, go to the location you are interested in and the device will give you the Latitude and Longitude of the place you are standing.

OR

- You can use the procedure outlined below to find the Latitude and Longitude of one or more locations. You can then find the straight-line distance between two of them.

For example, let's begin at the DRCC Flying Field in Seagoville, Texas.

Our destination is Bomber Field located West of Houston, Texas.

On your desktop computer, laptop or i-pad, enter the following in your web browser:

<http://www.itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

You will see a page that looks more or less like a Google Map or a MapQuest Map. In the box near the top of the page, enter your starting location. In this case, there is no address for the DRCC Field so you just enter Seagoville, TX . An orange marker will point to Seagoville. Use your mouse to move the map so that you can view the area to the left of the city of Seagoville. You are looking for Simonds road.

If you do not see the field in this aerial view, just zoom in a bit and you should spot the runway and the lake near the runway. Using the mouse, move the cursor to the point where the taxi-way intersects the runway. When you have the cursor in place, left-click the mouse and a blue marker will appear at the intersection.

At the same time, you will see that the Latitude and Longitude of this point has been displayed in the lower left box below the map. Print out this page or write down the coordinates.

I used the first set of numbers that are displayed as a whole number and a decimal fraction.

Click on the small box marked "Clear/Reset". Then enter your second location Monaville, TX which is where Bomber field is located. You will find that Monaville is simply an intersection of two country roads. To locate the field, move the map so that you can follow the road marked 1887 to the left (west) of the intersection. On the South side of 1887, you will see a label for "Pea Patch Airport". This is actually Bomber Field.

Zoom in on the runway and place the cursor as close to the middle of the runway as you can. Left-Click the mouse and again you will see the blue marker. Once again, the Latitude and Longitude have been entered in the lower left box. Either print the page or write down the coordinates.

Now that we have found the coordinates of two points on a map, we can use another formula to find the distance between these two points. First, exit from the website we were using above and enter the new link on the next page.

Before we continue, it is important that you understand how to enter the results from the exercise above into the next calculation page:

The Latitude of a point tells us whether it is North or South of the Equator. Numbers above the equator are positive and numbers below are negative. A point on the Equator would be zero degrees.

The Longitude of a point tells us whether it is East, West or exactly on the Prime Meridian which goes through the city of Greenwich, England. A point exactly on the Prime Meridian is zero degrees. All time zones and clock settings are based upon what is called Greenwich Mean Time.

Locations to the West of the Prime Meridian are displayed as a negative number. Locations to the East of the Prime Meridian are displayed as a positive number.

Now enter the following into your web browser:

<http://jan.nau.edu/~cvm/latlongdist.html>

Near the top of the new calculation page, you will see boxes for the Source Latitude & Longitude. You will also see boxes for the Destination Latitude & Longitude.

The numbers that I got are listed below. Yours may vary slightly depending upon just where you placed your cursor on the map for each location. I filled in the boxes as follows:

Source (DRCC Field) latitude is 32.643495N Longitude is 96.575854W

Destination (Bomber Field) latitude is 29.939230N Longitude is 96.059324W

Notice that you have to add the compass directions to the end of the numbers. At both locations the latitude is North of the equator and the longitude is West of the Prime Meridian. Do NOT enter the minus (-) sign before the longitude.

Check the box for statute miles and click on "Send Query"

The answer was 189.5260 miles. Either print the page or write the answer down.

Keep in mind that the answer is a straight line or great circle distance from one location to the other. This is also known as the "as-the-crow-flies" distance.

Here is another link that will produce results in two formats: "As-the Crow Flies" OR "By Land Transportation". As a bonus, you also get a map with the results marked on it.

In this case, you have to use the location NAMES instead of pointing to them on a map.

<http://freemaptools.com/how-far-is-it-between.html>

Enter Seagoville, TX in the "From" box.

Enter Monaville, TX in the "To" box.

Click on either "Miles" OR "Kilometers"

Click on "Show"

Enjoy your new navigation tools.