



W5AC

**Texas A&M University
Amateur Radio Club**

1236 TAMU, Slot 427
College Station, TX 77843-1236
<http://w5ac.tamu.edu>

Howdy W5AC members and friends.

Our tower at the shack was destroyed. This is not a message I ever thought I would have to share with you, but it seems the time is here. It appears that the winds from the storms caused the tower to fail at the bottom of the second section, folding over to the south, and landing between the W5AC shack and the telecommunications building next door. In addition to the tower, the Force 12 beam was damaged, likely irreparably, our V/UHF antenna at the top of the tower was also broken, and the folded terminated dipole was damaged as well. Upon further investigation, the rotor was completely filled with water, likely a result of it resting in an inverted position during the rain. However, the crank-up winch for raising the tower, the fold-over motor, and the tilt plate are all likely undamaged.

With the tower landing as it did, it thankfully did not appear to cause any major damage either to the shack or the telecommunications building. In addition, nobody was injured in the collapse, as the shack was already closed for COVID-19.

We are currently working with the University to remove what is left of the tower and make the area safe. However, while they have graciously agreed to fund the cost of making the area safe, we now face some tough decisions as a club.

The Executive Committee is currently exploring options for how the club may proceed.

Would like to invite you to a meeting this Wednesday, April 15th, at 7:30 PM via Zoom where the EC will present options we have currently thought of, and where we would like to gather input from you, our club members and loyal supporters. We will send out a follow-up email with the invite, and post the details on our website.

We will take these ideas and investigate each of them and work through their feasibility with the University.

However the club decides to proceed, it will almost definitely cost a large amount of money, more than the club currently has. With that, I would like to start soliciting donations on behalf of the club. If you are able, and would like to do so, our website has information regarding donating to the club, at

<http://w5ac.tamu.edu/support-the-club.html>

Attached are a few photos of the tower as it currently stands. A reminder that the shack is still closed. The tower site is roped off and off-limits. **Do not go visit.**

Regretfully,
Connor J. Farrell, Class of 2021
WG1GEM
2019-2020 W5AC President
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Where the tower failed at the bottom of the second section



How the tower landed between the two buildings



A wider view of the tower as it currently lays



A close-up of damage to the Force 12



A wider shot of the damage to the Force 12