

Newsletter for June, 1999

New Members!

Let's all give a warm welcome to the following new members!

Ron Arnett, KG5AQ
Rt 3 Box 225
Georgetown, TX 78626
255-3596
kg5aq@arrl.org

Jon boles, N3AEM
500 Ridge Oak
Georgetown, Tx 78628-7637
863-9818

New Address:

Randall Ricklefs, WA9YCB
1003 W. 7th St.
Taylor, TX 76574-2510
365-1477
Bob Redoutey, N5KF

Minutes of last meeting

May 6, 1999

PRESIDING: President, Bob Helms

QUORUM: A quorum was present, ?? members.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 P. M.

WELCOME OF VISITORS: Bob Helms ask for visitors, Virgil Buell, Wayne Ray from Liberty Hill and Ron Arnett, KT5AQ.

MINUTES:

The minutes were published in the Williams County Amateur Radio Club news letter and mailed to all members. It was stated that the minutes need to be corrected to include the motion to enter class 3A or higher for Field Day. Motion to accept the minutes as corrected, second, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: By Bob Redoutey, N5KF

Bob reported a balance of \$3,240.80. There was a short discussion concerning ordering more Club T shirts. Our Treasurer was instructed to go ahead and order the same amount that we have ordered in the past and that they should be here by our next club meeting.

REFRESHMENTS NEXT MONTH: John Warren NT5C volunteered. Thanks John.

EVENTS: Bob Helms AF5Z

FIST Sprint Contest -- Saturday 5/8 1200-1600 CDT

Texas QSO Party - May 22 0900-May24 2200 CDT.

HAMCOM, Dallas, June 11-13.

DAYTON HAMFEST, Dayton Ohio, in May.

FIELD DAY, June 26th. Russell Park where we held it last year.

ARES REPORT -- Harvey Henning OKLAHOMA DISASTER -- Hams Needed. Harvey brought the latest email from ARRL discussing how Oklahoma need hams to help the Salvation Army deliver supplies to various areas in the disaster area.

If anyone wants to review the email, please see him after the meeting.

The latest word from Ray Taylor, Southtexas Section Manager is that: "No ham should go to Oklahoma until he gets the invitation from the Oklahoma Section Manager to send workers."

Next ARES meeting will be at the Round Rock Fire Station 203 Commerce St. at 7:30 instead of the usual 7:00 P.M. On the agenda will be two major issues, Training lead by our new Training AEC, Ken Mitchell, KD2KW. Also we need to continue our search for a county grid map to use.

John Scott, KK5VH, was presented with his Assistant Emergency Coordinator Certificate as the AEC for Operations. John is responsible for deploying the teams of ARES members to go to the field as Storm Spotters, or the Command Post or Emergency Operations Center.

WALBURG BIKE RACE -- Harvey Henning

16 of the 17 positions have been filled, we need one ham to ride in one of the follow vehicles. Kevin Roeber, KC5OLC, volunteered. Thanks Kevin.

TEXAS HOUSE BILL 1345 -- Bob Helms

Bob inquired at the latest status of the bill? It was reported that it was passed by the Senate and it was on the way to the Governor's Desk for his signature.

CLUB HISTORIAN Bob Petrosky, N5TT, said that we need a Club Historian an recommended Elin Criswell with a motion, second, motion carried to elect Elin to this position, and Ed Underwood is to supply her the archives in the near future.

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION -- Harvey Henning Harvey presented Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, with his Assistant Emergency Coordinator Certificate as Training AEC for Williamson County ARES.

REPEATERS DOWN -- Dan Poggemiller KB5TWO

Dan reported that the 146.70 and the 147.00 repeaters will come down May 14th because the towers are being taken down. They will be put back up on a new water tower as soon as the tower construction is complete.

GENERAL TICKET CLASS -- Lori Schmidt KM5MQ

Lori stated that the class will start on June 5th on Saturday from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 P. M. The class will go for several weeks. A Novice/Technician Class is scheduled in September.

CLUB ROSTERS -- Bob Redoutey Bob stated that the Club Roster is not using his Web Site and that it can be accessed the same way it has always been, off of the Club Web Page.

FIELD DAY -- Bob Helms

Martha Underwood has graciously reserved the area in Russell Park on Lake Georgetown for Field Day. This is the same location that was used last year.

President Bob Helms declared that it is the Club Policy that no amateur will be permitted to climb a tower that has been guyed with ROPE. The risk is just too great. The club does not have any tower climbing insurance and we certainly do not want anyone hurt.

NEW BUSINESS:

SCHOLARSHIP Bob stated that there has been interest in establishing a Scholarship and use club funds for this purpose.

Several comments were made that the club need a budget to determine what money is available for such a scholarship. Dave Hassell AB5WX stated that we spend from \$400 to \$600 dollars on field day.

The idea was that be a one time scholarship. And after more discussion Harvey Henning suggested a committee be appointed to bring a report back to the club. Tom Whiteside, Bob Helms, Ed Underwood and Bob Redoutey will serve on the committee.

REFRESHMENTS: Thanks to Ken Keese KD5CDM for serving the refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

PROGRAM The program was provided by John Scott KK5VH and Tom Whiteside N5TW. John and Tom presented a very interesting and informative program on "Logging".

They made a very extensive survey on the Web to discover what software is available, the cost, and many other features of the various programs. At least 98 programs were found and the data compiled into a spreadsheet for distribution to those interested. One program was demonstrated by Tom showing how the programs can log all the data about the contact, but also can tune your radio, antenna turner, and rotor just by clicking on the DX station shown on the screen. Thanks John and Tom.

Harvey Henning, N0AJP Secretary

President's Column

Whoopee! Summer time is finally here. For some school is finally out, for others a long awaited summer vacation is drawn closer but to many hams it's time for FIELD DAY! Martha Underwood has reserved Russell Park (Area 3 I believe) at Lake Georgetown once again for our June 26th & 27th as the Field Day site. Jim Bittick, our volunteer club cook, will provide a barbecue picnic that Saturday evening at the site. In contrast to the last three years, the club has chosen a more relaxed approach where fun and training will be the goals instead of a competitive score. We expect to have as many as five stations on the air so there will be opportunities for all to operate. Bring a notepad to the June 3rd club meeting to participate in final planning during the program portion of the meeting.

Thanks to Harvey Henning and the many volunteers who supported the Violet Crown bicycle race in Walburg in early May. The race organizers have made a generous donation to our club for our involvement.

Upcoming operating events include the QRP TACTical HF QRP CW contest on June 5th from 1800 until 2400 UTC. Exchange call, RST, name and TAC (Telephone Area Code) or country. The ARRL VHF QSO Party will be held June 12th 1800 UTC until June 14th 0300 UTC. Exchange grid square locator and callsign on any mode on 50 MHz and higher frequency bands. Repeater, digipeater and satellite contacts are invalid. ARRL FIELD DAY will be Saturday June 26th 1800 UTC until Sunday June 27th 2100 UTC. Exchange entry class and ARRL section with any operating mode on any frequency. On the Internet - see <http://www.contesting.com> for a much more detailed contest calendar.

Area hamfests include the ARRL West Gulf Convention and Ham-Com in Arlington on June 11-13th. This event combines excellent programs/forums, many dealer sales/display booths along with both indoor and outdoor individual swap meet areas. Several nationally known QRP groups are sending leaders/delegates to provide programs and prizes. Several WCARC club members will camp in Cedar Hill State Park nearby during the event. See <http://www.hamcom.org> on the Internet for details.

Thanks to Dallas Mellichamp, Martha Underwood and others who actively supported Texas House Bill 1345. This important bill became law to help protect amateur radio operator's rights to erect antennas free from unreasonable government restriction.

Recent severe weather provided an opportunity to test the newly developed Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) telephone notification plan. John Sneed, Williamson County Emergency Planning

Coordinator, was impressed with our ability to activate over 30 stations across the county in less than a half-hour. ARES is developing a formal training program that will produce a group of well equipped, knowledgeable volunteers. I encourage all of you to become involved when possible.

The Austin Amateur Radio Club will host a general theory and code class on Saturdays at noon until 4 PM from June 5th through July 10th. This will be held at the Doss Elementary School in Austin. Contact Jeff or Lori Schmidt for further details.

The W5HS repeater on 147.08 MHz has been taken off the air due to loss of the tower site. Joe Makeever, repeater owner, is looking for another location for the machine in the Georgetown area. Our 146.64 repeater has increased activity as a result. Please welcome these newcomers and invite them to join our club.

Thanks to John Warren NT5C for volunteering to bring the June meeting refreshments. I look forward to another exciting meeting.

Bob Helms, AF5Z

Field Day Update

Greetings to all. Only one club meeting remains before Field Day on June 26th & 27th. The plans made so far include:

1. The site at Russell Park on Lake Georgetown has been reserved for the entire weekend - Thanks to Martha Underwood. This is the same location that was used in 1998.
2. The club has chosen to enter the 3A or greater class. This means at least three stations PLUS the novice/technician and VHF/UHF stations if so desired. The general approach this year is to maximize fun and training instead of generating a competitive score. The intent is to let as many unlicensed and less experienced hams become as involved as possible.
3. Bill Sepulveda, K5LNL has agreed to bring the antennas and radio for use on CW. He has an interest in operating using 5 watts QRP CW with battery power but has agreed to do so with his own call if this is agreeable. If his station is needed as the "club" CW station, he will join the group with 100w and operate under the club callsign.
4. Watt Gee, KM5CS hopes to bring his motor home with generator, air conditioning and his Yaesu FT-847 transceiver but would like to have something better than his mobile whip for an antenna. Watt would like his station to be used on CW but final details haven't been arranged.
5. Mel Cruts, KF6OZ will bring his trailer-mounted tower and log periodic beam for 20 through 10 meters.
6. There will be a club picnic on Saturday evening June 26th with cooking done by Jim Bittick, KC5BHF.

I'm sending the following message to generate some activity and planning to be finalized at the June club meeting. As a minimum, I see we need to decide or arrange for the following:

- A. I'd like to hear from each station, at the June meeting, what they are planning to do concerning:
 - 1.) Power
 - 2.) Antennas/cables/radios
 - 3.) A shelter (trailer/tent/etc.)
 - 4.) What modes and bands do you plan to use?
 - 5.) When will you begin station setup?
 - 6.) Where do you wish to set up along the loop in the park?

B. I believe Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX will be bringing his new Kenwood TS-930 for use as the novice/tech station. If so, what technician plus callsign will be used for it?

C. What trailers, motor homes, tents, etc. will be made available to house stations? Can they be air conditioned if sufficient power is available?

D. Power will likely be in short supply. Who can supply generators and what are their sizes? Are heavy duty output cables available to allow running both radio gear and air conditioning from them?

E. Bill, K5LN has requested the station location that was used for the CW station. Where will we put a total of FIVE stations (assuming Nov/Tech & VHF/UHF both exist)? This may be driven by generator locations as much as antenna space.

F. Who can provide safety equipment to include fire extinguishers and a first aid kit?

G. Are the signs from past years available for re-use? Who will install the signs prior to the event and remove them afterward?

H. Will there be any advance operator/logger scheduling for the stations?

I. How do we insure there is only ONE station on each band/mode at any given time? Will there be an advance "band utilization" schedule so all modes get a fair chance at each band.

J. Will logging be done by computer or pen/paper?

1.) If by computer - Who is supplying it for each station. What software will be used?

2.) If by pen/paper - Who has log and dupe sheets? Who will enter data into computer for contest entry submission?

K. Will there be any overnight campers on Friday night? How many motor homes, trailers, tents will be there Saturday night? **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO CAMP FREE AS LONG AS YOU FIND A SPACE ON THE PAVEMENT TO PARK YOUR TRAILER/MOTORHOME AND VEHICLES.**

The program for the June meeting will be Field Day. Even with the extra time, I'm doubtful that we will satisfactorily answer all the above questions. I encourage everyone to become involved and support **YOUR CLUB!** I look forward to all the challenges that result from lack of planning! Help me remember to have fun and laugh at myself when I make mistakes (;-) and am poorly prepared.

Bob Helms, AF5Z af5z@inetport.com

Editor's Waste Basket

If you haven't paid your 1999 dues, do so now so that our treasurer, Bob N5KF can clean up and distribute the club roster. Hope to see all of you at the June meeting.

73's...Ed