

# Newsletter for July, 1999

## New Members!

A warm welcome goes to:

David Vernooy KG5EX  
107 Stacey  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
kg5ex@juno.com

Cecil Turquette K5YQF  
12601 Oro Valley Cove  
Austin, TX 78729  
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## Minutes of last meeting

June 3, 1999

PRESIDING: President, Bob Helms

QUORUM: A quorum of 37 present.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:32 P. M.

WELCOME OF VISITORS:

Cecil Turquette, K5YQF  
Dave Vernooy, KG4EX  
Bob Wright, KS4JH

Dan Scurlock, K5MYX, is no visitor to us but has been out for a long while. It's good to see you back Dan! A warm welcome was give to all.

MINUTES: The minutes were published in the Williams County Amateur Radio Club news letter and mailed to all members. Motion to accept the minutes, second, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Redoutey is ill and we will not have a report. Don Bonner would you please take applications and dues from anyone that would like to join? Don willingly agreed.

WALBURG BIKE RACE: I would like everyone that took part in the Walburg Bike Race to please stand. 18 folks worked the race. They were suppose to get a free lunch but had to pay for it and the Sponsors of the race did not think that was right so they made out a check for \$100. To the club. Many thanks to all those that helped in the race.

REFRESHMENTS NEXT MONTH: Thanks John for bringing the refreshments tonight. Is there a volunteer for the month of July? Ok Sandy Hill, thanks very much.

REPEATERS: Dan Scurlock Introduction -- Bob Helms

Over a year ago we formed a committee to investigate putting our repeater on the County tower just East of town. It is a 500 foot tower. After much negotiation we were told that we go on that tower but that we would have to furnish our own building, equipment, telephone line, power, etc. They want to put up the antenna. We were not allowed to enter their property let alone their building. Therefore, with that the club chose not to pursue it further because it would be a monthly outlay of money that would obviously result in a raise of dues to the members of the club. The repeater is up and functional, as of a few minutes ago at the present location. However, Dan has some new information he would like to present to us.

Dan Scurlock: I want your input so be ready to speak up, don't sit there silent.

The committee has worked very hard to get on the County tower. There is another organization that would like to get on the County tower and the Club could ride "Piggy-back" to get on the tower. This organization is the Armadillo Repeater Association.

There were several questions and answers. To summarize:

The Armadillo Association would furnish the building, fence and all necessary equipment, phone line, power, etc. that the County Tower Committee said was needed. If the committee allowed them to put up the antenna, it would be put up by a bonded and licensed professional tower climber.

Discussion followed with questions and answers, more discussion.

Result: Motion to activate the Club Repeater Committee to investigate this possibility and to include a UHF Inter-mod Study, second, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

STIPEND: Tom Whiteside, Committee Chairman Tom presented the result of the Scholarship Committee. A Resolution follows:

RESOLUTION

Whereas: Russell and Randy Hill, together with their parents, have as a family, actively participated in the WCARC for the past several years,

Have generously served in multiple club functions and in helping individual members,

Were among the first to arrive at the Jarrell tornado site assisting in providing emergency radio communication and comforting families,

Have attained noteworthy scholastic milestones in their past four years of high school locally,

Have been outstanding members of the high school honors band,

Have recently graduated from Georgetown High School and plan to go to college in the fall,

In recognition of their distinguished achievements, Be it Resolved that: WCARC extend encouraging congratulations to Randy and Russell, and provide a one time stipend of \$250 each for use in their upcoming college expenses.

Motion to accept this resolution, second, motion carried. This Hill family came back into the room and the resolution was read to Randy and Russell. Randy and Russell graciously accepted the stipend. They will be attending Texas Tech in the Fall. A big round of applause was given to congratulate them by the club members present.

CENTRAL TEXAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND -- Stu Rohre Congratulations to Randy and Russell on their application to the Central Texas Scholarship Fund. "It was some of the best applications that I have seen", Stu said. There were 12 applications and the competition was tough. We are glad to award them a scholarship for all the years they are in college.

#### REFRESHMENTS:

FIELD DAY: -- Bob Helms

I sent an email on the reflector of some length. We do not have a planning team per se this year. We are going to be at same location we were last year, Russell Park. I think it is Picnic Area 3, but don't count on that. Just keep to the right when you come into the park. The summary of the site continued. We are going to enter category 3A or higher this year.

Discussion continued about what the needs are by the various stations to be setup at Field Day.

An Icom 756 will be there, need a generator and a 6 meter antenna.

Harvey needs to make sure that there is a 2 meter radio to transmit traffic to the Austin Radio Club to earn the 100 points with messages to Ray Taylor the South Texas Section Manager.

Dallas, needs a generator, an air conditioned camper or mobile home for the Novice station and a tower. Chris Hill will bring the tower for Dallas, John Vought will have 37 foot mobile home that is air conditioned and it is air conditioned. It needs a level place to be set up.

Kevin Roeber will set up his HF and VHF station.

Mel needs a 6 meter antenna and generator.

John Warren will furnish a radio.

Jim Bittick will bring a tower.

A lot of discussion ensued concerning when we would go the park to set up the towers, etc. After some comments, it was decided that it would be best to come out after 5 P. M. and bring the towers and other equipment. Choose each site, assemble the towers but not to raise them but leave them down during the night so that some child could not climb one and then fall. Then come out early Saturday morning and erect the towers and set up the stations in order to start operations at 1:00 P. M. There was a volunteer to stay at the park all night to keep an eye on our equipment, etc.

ARES -- Harvey Henning

The Sunday night net will change this Sunday from 7:00 P. M. to 8:00 P. M. until the end of day light saving time.

Our next meeting will be this next Thursday, June 10, 7:30 P. M. at the Central Fire Station, 203 Commerce Street in Round Rock.

ARES applications and envelopes for certain ARES members are on the back table.

Tom Whiteside needs a back up for the Callup of the Georgetown Groups since he will be out of town the rest of the month of June. Chris Hill volunteered. Thanks Chris!

MEETING ADJOURNED: Harvey Henning, NOAJP Secretary

#### **ARES News**

Williamson County ARES met on June 10 at 7:30 P. M. at the Central Fire Station in Round Rock. It was well attended by AECs and others. The agenda for the meeting is listed below:

I Registration:

II Welcome and Recognition of Visitors----- Harvey

III. Projects:

Training ----- Ken

American Red Cross Packet Station----- Dallas

Field Day Planning --- Dallas

ARES Web Page -- Dallas

Grid Map for Williamson Co. -- Harvey

IV. Other Items:

V. Announcements:

DRILL -- The Corpus Christi Weather Station will be conducting a Hurricane Drill or Exercise on June 22 starting at 9:00 A. M. local or 1400 UTC time. Ray Taylor, South Texas Section Manager has urged all ARES members to participate if possible. FREQUENCY: 7285 khz. Adjourn

TRAINING: Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, Training Assistant EC.

The basis of our training is the Williamson County ARES Emergency Communications Plan. All AECs have reviewed the plan with reference to each particular function that affects each of their AEC jobs.

Primary Concerns: Two concerns are paramount at this stage of development of the Williamson County ARES, they are: 1. Operations and Traffic Handling. With these two areas in mind, different AECs have agreed to work up training presentations to be presented on the Sunday evening Nets in the near future.

Williamson County Grid Map Presented:

Harvey passed out a grid map that he found in his things which he received from Pete, previous EC. It already has the grids marked on the map and it is a very convenient size to use while being a net control during an official WC ARES activation. Of course, it also has the names of all the county roads on the map. The group present adopted the use of the map.

Maps Available:

If you have need for one of these maps, be sure to see Harvey at one of the WCARC or WCARES meetings.

#### WC ARES CAPABILITY SURVEY:

Ken discussed the need to know what skills the members of WC ARES have in order to better know how to structure the Training Program. Ken asked Harvey to develop the survey and provide for its distribution via email to our various ARES members. Harvey agreed to do so soon. (It has already been developed and forwarded to Ken for revision as of June 14, 1999 )

#### RESPONSE OF WC ARES:

Sandy Hill mentioned the need to have some vest to wear during actual deployment to the scene during an emergency response. Harvey supported this subject. We need to find a source to purchase these vests. Can anyone furnish us with this source?

#### FIELD DAY:

Dallas is working on setting up a NOVICE station at field day along with a WC ARES PROMOTION with WCARES applications, brochures, copies of the Emergency Plan and other ARRL materials.

Harvey is also planning to pass formal traffic to earn as many points as possible for Field Day with coordination with the Austin/Travis County ARES Field Day Traffic Coordinator.

Best 73s, Harvey, WCARES EC

### Public Service

"Get Ready to Flex Your Communication Muscles!" Last May, members of WCARC came out to Walburg to support Violet Crown Sports Association in their efforts to put on a major bike race. On that morning of May 8th, WCARC members went out to their positions to ensure a safe, smooth, and fun time for about 200 racers. Did we do a good job?

Well, at our table at the Walburg Mercantile during the ending ceremony, one race organizer walking by shouted "Radio Club rules!". We'll take that any day! But perhaps the best endorsement of our member's work comes now from the fact that they want us there again for another event!

The next event is to be held from 7:30 to noon in the Granger Lake Area on Saturday, August 7th, and again on Sunday, August 8th. This event is called a 'time trial' and will attract, according to organizer Greg Hall, about 300 riders from all over! Hall estimates a need of at least six volunteers for this event. As in the Walburg race, the need for hams to provide race organizers with "situational awareness" as the race progresses.

We'll never forget Russ, KK5E radioing in when racers from group #2 were 'led astray' off the course (not by any of us!) and had to be talked back in! Was Oklahoma now on the course?! Monitors also tracked the location of packs so that course marshalls up the course could notify oncoming vehicular traffic of what was ahead.

Then there were the times when individual racers needed assistance, be it from breakdowns to injury.

Walburg was indeed an exciting event that not only assisted a community event, but provided for us hams a valuable laboratory for testing our communications skills and team working abilities.

Can you help? If you do, you're sure to have a great time. I had fun working the Walburg race and got to see old friends and meet some new ones that had just joined the club. Hope some of that crew returns - we had a blast! And if you didn't get to come to Walburg, sign up! We'll have fun - and we all get free T-Shirts!

For sign up, email me, Mike Evans, at [kd5aad@repeater.org](mailto:kd5aad@repeater.org) And the web site describing this event is at: [http://www.violetcrown.org/x\\_events/STTC99FL.shtml](http://www.violetcrown.org/x_events/STTC99FL.shtml)

Thanks and 73, Mike Evans KD5AAD

### President's Column

The spring hamfests, Field Day and half of summer have all come and gone. Although I love the busy summer time with all its activities, I find it hard to fit them all in the available time.

A small mystery recently solved itself. Many mornings and afternoons I listened to the club repeater on 146.64 being constantly keyed. A couple of times I suspected equipment malfunction but usually there was actually a carrier on the repeater input frequency. As I listened more, I discovered it was obviously a mobile station with a stuck microphone button or some similar defect. The person's habit included a daily commute from Williamson County into Austin and back with their driving times similar to mine. When the signal was strong, I sometimes heard a broadcast radio or conversation in the car but I didn't recognize the voice nor could I find the vehicle.

Finally a few days ago, I was again listening to the repeater input with a 15 element beam at 80 feet when the offending vehicle occupant made a cellular phone call! I had to grin, ear-to-ear, as I heard a spouse make arrangements to meet at a local restaurant for a family meal. I met them there and explained the above situation. They assured me the radio would be repaired and I promised to hide their identity.

Their emotions ranged from surprise, to almost disbelief, to embarrassment and concern as they considered how many people may have been listening to them as they drove.

PLEASE, be careful where you store your mobile microphone. Consider if the push-to-talk button might be depressed and the "excitement" you might create as you broadcast your personal, private comments to the local amateur population.

I met with Dan Scurlock, K5MYE briefly concerning his proposal that WCARC partner with the Armadillo repeater linking group in sharing the use of the county tower near Georgetown. He sensed the concern of several club members during and after his proposal at our last meeting and has chosen to withdraw the idea. I felt the initiative was not well received and am relieved that it isn't being pursued further. Should our club wish to obtain financial or technical assistance from the Armadillo group in exchange for tower access rights in the future, the option may be available.

Field Day planning this year was very informal as the club expressed a desire to return to the "fun" of a less competitive and more spontaneous event. Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX organized and equipped the Novice/Technician station quite well. Although very short on operators and left to log with pencil & paper, they completed several hundred contacts. A 40ft tower, rotor, tri-band beam and a full-wavelength 160 meter horizontal wire loop were used. Operation began under a picnic pavilion but moved into an air conditioned trailer.

Thanks to Bill Sepulveda, Dave Hassel and others who set up and operated a battery powered CW station using low-power (QRP). Over 300 contacts were made using a multi-band trap vertical and a full-wavelength 40 meter horizontal wire loop. A solar panel array kept the deep cycle battery fully charged throughout the 24 hours operation of the 4 watt transceiver and accessories. The operators remained under a picnic pavilion but did have a generator for fans, lighting and a few hours sleep in an air conditioned tent trailer.

Congratulations to Mel Cruts, KF6OZ who supplied & installed a tilt-over, crank-up tower on a trailer. A log-periodic HF beam, 2 meter vertical collinear antenna were installed with an antenna rotator for this HF SSB station. I haven't heard an exact number but this station made between 500 and 1000 contacts. Jerry Burran, N5CNG provided a camper trailer to house the station with it's rented generator.

Thanks to Watt Gee, N5NF who provided an air conditioned motor home and transceiver for the use of the ladies in the club. A triband beam with a 40 meter add-on kit and 80 meter dipole was supported on a 40 foot tower for this station. Although this station was installed for the use of the ladies, it proved a popular hang-out as it was the only air conditioned spot for the first afternoon. Several hundred voice contacts were made.

The club picnic at the Field Day site on Saturday was a great success. Thanks to Jim & Michelle Bittick, our self-proclaimed 'club cooks', for all the hard work in purchasing, preparing and serving a fine meal. I appreciate the variety of side dishes and desserts that members provided to complete the meal.

I reflect over Field Day with mixed emotions. It was fun but it is difficult to motivate and involve people when strong competition isn't involved. Although the amount of antennas and equipment used at the site was less, due to lack of participation - I feel as tired as I did last year! The solar flux was near 200 (very high) but the 10 and 15 meter bands were poor due to unsettled geomagnetic conditions. Thanks to all that participated. I did see some newcomers getting involved in both the work as well as the operating. We value and appreciate your input. I take pride that our club attracts visitors who then join in our activities. The friendly, open atmosphere and lack of cliques within our group continues to attract new members. PLEASE continue to make visitors and newcomers welcome to visit, join and PARTICIPATE with us in all our activities.

Bob Helms, AF5Z President, WCARC

### **Editor's Waste Basket**

I'm sorry I had to miss Field Day this year, and especially Jim and Michele's cooking! Since turning 65 in March of this year my old body has been crying for an overhaul or something. Good newsletter this month! Thanks for making my job easy!

73's...Ed