

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club

February 5, 2004

The WCARC meeting was called to order by President Rick Trommer, W5RHT. There were over 50 attendees with 45 signing the sign-up sheet. The visitors, perhaps wisely, chose not to identify themselves although several were present.

The minutes had not been made available on the WCARC web site prior to the meeting. A summary of the December minutes was read. Acceptance of the minutes was moved, seconded, and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report – Jon Boles, K5AEM

Due to not having a January meeting, we have two treasurer's reports.

December, 2003

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,135.42
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 245.00
Expenditures	\$ 215.75
Ending Balance	\$ 2,164.67
ARES Funds Available	\$ 589.29
WCARC Funds	\$ 1,575.38

January, 2004

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,164.67
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 65.00
Expenditures	\$ 100.00
Ending Balance	\$ 2,129.67
ARES Funds Available	\$ 589.29
WCARC Funds	\$ 1,540.38

DX Report – Dave Hassell, N5IW

There are a number of DXpeditions in progress now or in the near future:

- Malawi, 7Q, will be QRV starting February 8 for two months
- Malta, 9H, will be QRV until February 13
- West Malaysia, 9M2, will be QRV February 6 – 9
- East Malaysia, 9M6, will be QRV February 9 – 20
- United Arab Emirates, A6, will be QRV on 80 meters around 1500z

IOTA:

- South Orkney Islands - AY1ZA has been active 15 & 40 meters
- Bahamas, C6, will be active via several operations in February

For more information on DX operations there are a number of good resources including the ARRL DX Bulletin available on the ARRL web site and reports such as 'The Weekly DX' published by Bernie, W3UR.

Contest Report – Dave Hassell, N5IW

There are at least 34 contests planned for February. They range from entry level to serious 48-hour contests. They include the FIST CW contest on February 14, NA Sprint SSB on February 8, FYBO on February 7, NAQP RTTY on February 28, ARRL DX CW on February 21, and CQ 160 SSB on February 20.

ARES Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom announced a number of new ARES positions:

- Virgil Buell, KD5KQV, in addition to being Training AEC is now the Extra-County AEC responsible for managing and improving relationships with surrounding counties.
- Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, in addition to his Call-Up AEC role has picked up the Equipment AEC responsibility.
- Randy Pratt, KC5CWD, will continue as Strategy AEC.
- Pat Hanger, WA5LGM, is the Williamson County Emergency Management AEC.
- Bruce Sawtelle, W3NJ, is the Communications and Operations AEC. Bruce will be developing the packet-based message passing system.

ARES is looking to include HF capabilities as part of their operational capabilities and is looking for someone to form and lead an “HF Cavalry” mission.

ARES would like to update the call-up information. If you have a cell phone with a pager, this could help the efficiency of the call-up tree. Please contact Dallas, KD4HNX, to make these updates.

The 145.13 repeater is back on line and will be used for the ARES net on Sundays at 8:00pm.

The Skywarn severe weather training will be held at 3M on February 28.

This month’s ARES program will be a Go Kit Extravaganza.

Repeater Technical Advisory Committee Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom confirmed that the club repeater was still functioning well. To continue his role as the repeater trustee, Tom requested and received approval of the group.

The goal for repeater work for 2003 was to upgrade the site and equipment. For 2004, Tom will be working to secure any needed funding for repeater operation and improvements.

Old Business

Georgetown Swapfest

Rick, W5RHT, thanked Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV, and Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ, for their support for this year’s event. Lori worked directly with Rick to provide the task list that had been used for past years’ swapfests.

Rick outlined the results of the very successful swapfest. 65 tables were available including the ones that were provided for testing, ARES, and club tables. The tables were sold out and the club received \$506 for the tables. Although the tally of the profits is not official, the club received about \$532 from raffle ticket sales, \$180 from the ARES table, and additional receipts from Kees Talen, K5BCQ. Jon, K5AEM, should have a full report for next month’s meeting.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to reserve the Georgetown Community Center for February 6, 2005. Jon agreed to make the reservation.

The club thanked Rick, W5RHT, for his excellent work managing this year’s event.

VE Testing Session

As a traditional part of the swapfest, Dave, N5IW, heads up a team of volunteers to host a testing session. This year's results were:

9 applicants

5 new licenses and upgrades were achieved

- 4 Technician
- 1 Extra

Jim Hester, K5HTK (our well dressed former president), had received positive feedback on the testing session from one of the applicants.

Trailer Report – Virgil Buell, KD5KQV

Virgil updated the meeting attendees on the concept of the plans for a club communication trailer. There was no additional activity on this since the December meeting.

New Business

Newsletter – Virgil Buell, KD5KQV

Virgil informed the club that he would no longer have the time to devote to the club newsletter. He will publish his final newsletter on February 6. He recommended that the normal items that had been part of the newsletter be sent to Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, for posting on the WCARC web site. Virgil has done a fine job with the club newsletter. Rick will address the newsletter question in future meetings.

Club Picnic – Jim Bittick, KC5BHF

Jim has reserved Area A at the Arbors for the April 17 club picnic. As usual, serving time will start at 5:00pm and everything will be provided except he asks that people bring desserts. There is a strong possibility that baby back ribs will be on the menu.

Meeting Location – Jon Boles, K5AEM

Jon received a letter from GISD that indicates that WCARC may be required to pay for use of the GISD facilities for its monthly meetings. The rate could be \$36 per hour. Our current status of free use of the GISD conference room will continue until June 1 after which the above fee will be required unless a waiver is received from the new GISD superintendent. Rick and Chris, KC5AQF, agreed to discuss options as appropriate with GISD officials.

Red Cross Communication Truck – Jay Ferron, N4GAA

Jay and several others brought the Red Cross communication truck to the club meeting to show the to members and to ask for volunteers to be trained in its use. The truck is based in Houston, and it is a tool to be used where ever it is needed for emergency communications. There will be a one-week training in the near future, and Jay encouraged club members to participate in order to be part of the team that would have the skills to put this tool into operation should it be needed in the Central Texas area.

General

Landing Zone training will be on February 14 at the Shoreline Christian Center. The helicopters should be arriving about 8:30am with the formal training to occur from 9:00 to noon. For additional information, please contact Dallas, KD4HNX.

Belton swapfest has moved to May 22.

Refreshments for the March meeting will be provided by Richard Waltman, KJ5PN, as noted in the December minutes.

Program introduced by Dick Foster, W5TA

Brad Rhem, KV5V, provided an excellent program that included methods and techniques to analyze and resolve the EMI problems with mobile installations. This included a number of war stories from Brad's experience with all of the major US auto manufacturers. He also provided some free kits to club members to help with problems that they may currently have.

Minutes submitted by the honorable Greg Worthington, AG5W.