

The WCARC Report

April 2004

Welcome, New Members!

It's a pleasure to introduce these new members, all of whom have joined the club since the beginning of March.

Barry Allen, N5ZGU – Austin
Judith Allen, NC – Austin
Rick Chapman, K5RIK – Georgetown
Mike Goin, W5GIC – Pflugerville
Rob Hughes, N7AKE – Round Rock

Look for these folks at the next meeting you attend, and introduce yourself – you'll meet some new friends! ☒

Still Haven't Paid Your Dues?

Our treasurer Jon Boles, K5AEM, reminds everyone that 2004 is no longer a "new" year – but that a lot of us still haven't paid our annual dues. It's time, and then some!

Dues are only \$10 a year for single memberships, \$15 for families. Get your payment to Jon at our meeting on May 6. Please! ☒

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Our April Meeting

by Club President Rick Trommer, W5RHT

The April 1, 2004 meeting of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Rick Trommer, W5RHT. Each member present gave his name and call sign. There were four visitors.

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting as posted on the WCARC web site was moved, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Club Treasurer Jon Boles, K5AEM, offered this report:

April, 2004

Beginning balance	\$ 4312.02
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 127.00
Expenditures	\$ 423.63
Ending Balance	\$ 4015.39
ARES Funds	\$ 982.02
WCARC Funds	\$ 3033.37

DX Report

John McColly, W5RQ, reported that T33 will be on the air this month.

Contest Report

Dave Hassell, N5IW, reported that in April we will have some 40 contests. Seems like everyone should be able to find *something* of interest this month.

ARES Report

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, asked that if anyone needs a

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The President's Corner

Well this month's meeting almost started off on the wrong foot, as the custodian was not at the school board building to let us in. Hey, wait a minute! That's how last month's newsletter started off Well the regular custodian went home early and I found another one to let me in the building, so I guess I'm 0 for 2.

Let me start off by asking for some Field Day HELP! Our Field Day Captain, Dick Foster, W5TA, is going through a real uphill battle this year. Because Lake Georgetown is at a very low level, we may not have any access to the Russell Park area as we have in the past. Along with this, Dick is in dire need of volunteers to organize and support a few of the suggested modes of operation and help the club identify equipment and people to run these additional stations. Currently we only have the CW station accounted for. We need more volunteers! Please call Dick and pledge your support and help with this club function.

After all of Dick's preparations to get Field Day up and running, we will still need operators to man each station. This is the easy part, so please sign up for at least an hour or two and help the club make this another enjoyable event.

John McColly, W5RQ, has given us some information on looking for T33 over the next few weeks. I talked with Dean Hamilton, K5FDH, who is currently chasing them across the bands, and I hope the rest of us will be able to track them down as well.

Club members have been actively looking for another meeting place due to the fact that the GISD might start charging us for the use of our current meeting room. Dean, K5FDH, suggested that we might be able to use the basement meeting room at the Wesleyan Retirement Home. Dean and I went over and looked around and we believe that it would be a very suitable place for our club meetings. I'll provide more information at the next club meeting, but we need to keep this item active and make the move if the club agrees.

As a reminder . . .

May 22	Belton Ham Expo
June 18-19	Arlington Ham-Com
August 6-7	Austin Summerfest

Remember from day to day to make use of the resources that our club and its members represent. We have a great wealth of experience and skills within our small organization. I have been busy over the past 6 weeks helping my parents move from Georgetown,

Kentucky to Georgetown, Texas, and with all of the known problems of making a move from one state to another, I have again found that within our club we have many folks with the skills and experience to make this type of work easier. From finding and closing on a house, to the everyday fix-up and repair, to moving in and helping them establish a new residence, the WCARC has folks that can help with most any type of problem. My thanks to everyone for making this club what it is today.

Well that's about it for this month and I want to give a spin through 40 meters tonight before calling it quits for the day. Remember; if you have not been attending the breakfast at the Monument, consider it one Saturday.

73, Rick W5RHT

Field Day 2004 - Status

The significant progress this month has been a volunteer stepping up to the task of captaining the Phone station. Thank you, Steve Cowell, K15YG.

We also have one definite location possibility. Kees Talen, K5BCQ, has offered the use of 10 acres near Liberty Hill. Also, a couple of park possibilities have been suggested.

In any event, whether we wind up at a park or on private property, it appears pretty definite that we will need to provide tents, canopies, folding tables and/or RV's. The use of private property would require renting a porta-potty or two, but this would most likely be less expense to the club than renting a park site.

We will need to "nail down" as many of these loose ends as possible at our May meeting. We'll be looking for volunteers to commit to provide:

- RV and/or tent
- folding table(s)
- canopy (that is, something to provide shade over the table)
- generators
- captains for GOTA and VHF stations

We'll also discuss the pro's and con's of the location options, and ideally, make a decision on that.

Dick Foster, W5TA
w5ta@austin.rr.com

badge, please see Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ. Galen is ready to take pictures and start the badge-making process. New badges are now being distributed.

Old Business

The Spring BBQ will be held April 17 at the pavilion in San Gabriel Park. Baby back ribs will be served at 5:00pm. The club will provide meat, side dishes, and drinks. Members should bring desserts. Jim Bittick, KC5BHF, and Michelle Bittick, KC5BHE, will be cooking the food again this year.

Greg Worthington, AG5W, has asked the club to drop the listing for the Mosley Triband Beam from the list of WCARC-owned equipment as the antenna seems to be something that the club never really had in the first place. A motion was made and approved to drop this item from the equipment list.

Dean Hamilton, K5FDH, has made the suggestion that the club could possibly use a meeting room at the Wesleyan Retirement Home for our club meetings. Rick, W5RHT, will call Dean and set up a meeting time to check this out for the club.

A motion was made last month to reserve Russell Park for Field Day. Tom, N5TW, has found out that due to the low water level at Lake Georgetown, our normal Field Day site may not be available to us this year. Dick Foster, W5TA, our Field Day chairman, will report back to us next month on any updates or changes to our plans for the Field Day site. Dick mentioned that Dave, N5IW, will be the CW station captain and that we still need a phone station captain.

New Business

Dick, W5TA, asked if club members would consider buying a PC-compatible VGA projector. Dave, N5IW, will report to the club next month about available systems and prices.

Warren Gossett, KB5OEL, will bring refreshments to next month's meeting.

Program

Dick, W5TA, introduced Jon Boles, K5AEM, who

offered an interesting presentation on the N1MM Logger program.

Minutes submitted by Rick, W5RHT, in the absence of club secretary Greg Worthington, AG5W. ☒

WCARC-Owned Equipment List

Who Has What -- and Since When

Tower work

Gin pole – John Benedict, KE5RS – 8/30/2003
Tower step – Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW – 8/7/2003

Antenna Measurement

MFJ Analyzer – Ken Larsen, KC5RPF – 12/3/2003
MFJ Grid Dip Adapter – Stuart Rohre, K5KVH – 3/4/2004

Antennas

Butternut HF Vertical 10M-80M – Bob Helms, AF5Z
Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical – Dean Hamilton, K5FDH – 11/6/2003
Hygain Triband – Dick Foster W5TA – 7/4/2003

Masts

Push-Up Masts (2) – Bob Helms, AF5Z – 8/7/2003
Push-Up Mast – Ken Larsen, KC5RPF – 7/4/2003
Push-Up Masts (2) – Virgil Buell, KD5KQV – 7/4/2003

Power Supply

20 Amp Supply – Dave Hassell, N5IW – 7/4/2003

Picnic Supplies

30 Cup Coffee Pot – Don Bonner, NO5B – 8/8/2003
5 Gal Drink Coolers (2) – Virgil Buell, KD5KQV – 8/7/2003
Heavy Duty Power Cords (2) – Chris Hill, KC5AQF
Miscellaneous Picnic Supplies – Don Bonner, NO5B – 8/8/2003

Pending Sale

Commercial Grade Antenna – Bob Helms, AF5Z

Please advise club secretary Greg Worthington, AG5W (ag5w@aol.com), of any additions or corrections.

MAY - JUNE EVENTS

May 12-16: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton OH (details at www.hamvention.org/)

May 22: Belton Ham Expo, Belton TX. Register on the web site (<http://www.tarc.org>) or request information from Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ, at 254-773-3590.

June 3-6: Republic of Texas Biker Rally at Travis County Expo Center, Austin TX. Motorcycle Special Events Team – Texas (MSET-TX) needs volunteers to help with communications, handle traffic with EMS, Security, and event staff. Volunteer or request information (ray@mset-tx.org).

June 18-19: Arlington Ham-Com, Arlington TX. Register for this ARRL West Gulf Division event on-line <http://www.hamcom.org> or address information requests to Barry Goldblatt, WA5KXX, by e-mail (chairman@hamcom.org), or phone (214-361-7574 or 972-596-4669).

June 25-27: Field Day 2004 setup and operations

BPL Update

As noted in our previous issue, the deadline for commenting on the FCC's NPRM regarding Broadband over Power Line is May 3. By the time you read this, that date will probably have come and gone. Furthermore, on April 26 President Bush went on record in support of BPL (see his speech at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040426-6.html>).

But as Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, has pointed out, these developments should prompt even more protests and comments from hams. Go to the White House's web mail site (<https://sawho14.eop.gov/PERSdata/intro.htm>) and tell the President how broadband radiation from power lines will interfere with emergency short wave communications by the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Baptist Men's Disaster Kitchens, International Hurricane Nets, and FEMA. Tell him too that BPL will require a costly infrastructure and will not hasten broadband access to rural America, as BPL signals must be retransmitted every 2000 feet because of excessive leakage from power lines not designed to carry radio frequencies. You might want to remind him as well that there are 600,000 voting licensed radio amateurs in America who are being adversely affected by the deployment of BPL and that there is no question that BPL could contribute to another 9/11 disaster communications blackout. Tell it like it is! ☒

The ARES Report

by Williamson County EC Tom Whiteside, N5TW

This will be a short report this month as Judy and I are away most of the month enjoying the wilds of Utah. Many thanks to Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ, for being acting EC in my absence.

I'm pleased to announce that Jon Boles, K5AEM, has joined the AEC team as the Georgetown Callup AEC. Thanks to Jon for filling this important slot! I'm encouraging both Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, and Jon (our Callup AECs) to recruit assistants that we can formally list on our organization chart as well. These assistants would be acting Callup AECs when the Callup AEC is out of town and could be a big help when we do have to do a callup. Please contact them if you can do this!

Chris Hill, KC5AQF, has worked up a good list of training ideas for the year that should add spice and valuable information to our nets and monthly meetings. Chris is looking for ideas as well as folks with information they would be willing to present. Please get with him on this if you want to join in.

Speaking of the ARES meeting, I hope that you will join us. The ARES meeting is held the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock fire station on Commerce Boulevard (now at 7pm). This month's program will be a report from all the AEC team on what their positions entail and what their goals and objectives for the year are.

And we also hope to hear you on the Sunday evening nets on 145.130 at 8pm. Mark, KC6JWV, has joined the net control team and did a great job on his first time out – thanks, Mark!

And don't forget the Sunday evening nets at 8pm on 145.130. ☒

