

# The WCARC Report

June 2004

## Welcome, New Members!

It's a pleasure to introduce these new members, who have joined the club since our last issue.

Larry Hammel, K5OT – Round Rock  
Nelson Mikeska, KI5JF – Georgetown  
Fred Walczyk, KK5JM – Round Rock

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

## Field Day Was Wet – and Fun!

Look for a full report in our next issue. And keep an eye on our club web site (<http://www.wcarc.com/>) for pictures showing just how wet it was – and at least some of the fun we had. Hearty thanks to our Field Day Captain Dick Foster, W5TA, our station captains, and everyone who participated. It was a great two days! ☒

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## Our June Meeting

by Club President Rick Trommer, W5RHT

The June 3, 2004 meeting of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Rick Trommer, W5RHT. This was the first meeting to be held at the Wesleyan Retirement Home. Dean Hamilton, K5FDH, was thanked by the club for arranging this new location. Dean introduced Dr. Bob Galvan, Vice President of the Wesleyan Retirement Home, who welcomed the club to this facility. Each member present gave his name and call sign. We had four visitors at our meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted on the web.

## Treasurer's Report

Club Treasurer Jon Boles, K5AEM, offered this report:

### June, 2004

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,852.64
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 170.00
Expenditures	\$ 836.11
Ending Balance	\$ 3,186.53
ARES Funds Available	\$ 934.17
WCARC Funds	\$ 2,252.36

Acceptance of the financial report was moved, seconded, and approved.

## DX Report

John Warren, NT5C, reported that he had been out of town and was not up-to-speed on current DX activity.

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## The President's Corner

At the writing of this article we are starting a very busy month related to our hobby. First I want to thank Dean Hamilton, K5FDH, for the suggestion of using the basement meeting room at the Wesleyan Retirement Home for our meetings. We will refine the use of the PA system during our meeting so we can overcome the noise of the air handling system, but all in all, this new facility will be a very welcome change for our club.

Field Day is really only days away and our Field Day Captain Dick Foster, W5TA, is still seeking help for this event. Dick has secured the Heritage Community Gardens off Hutto Road for our Field Day site this year. Dick's presentation on Field Day preparation and helpful hints gave all of us a good overview of the things needed for this type of event. As I remind myself, by the time you read this article, Field Day will be over and we will be moving on to making this event even better next year.

As a reminder, our next club picnic will be on October 9 at San Gabriel Park. Let's keep reminding each other of this event and let's see if we want to plan a small radio contest during the same time while we are enjoying some great food and friendship.

As a Swapfest reminder....

Jun 18-19	Arlington Ham-Com
Aug 6-7	Austin Summerfest
Aug 28	Gainesville Hamfest

Well, that's about it for this month and I want to give a spin thru the lower end of 40 meters tonight as Bill Sepulveda, K5LN, gave Greg Worthington, AG5W, and myself a very informative demonstration on the proper setup and use of the 1000MP. Bill provided us with two key modifications to the 1000MP and afterwards provided Greg and myself with a very good A/B comparison between a stock 1000MP and one with the mods installed.

Remember; if you have not been attending the Saturday breakfast at the Monument Cafe you should consider it, as this is the type of information that has been passed around at some of our get-togethers there.

73, Rick W5RHT

## 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](mailto:ag5w@aol.com)), of any additions or corrections.

## Contest Report

Dave Hassell, N5IW, reported that in June we will have 24 contests but only one real contest that we should participate in . . . FIELD DAY!

## ARES Report

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, told us about the Homeland Security exercise that will be taking place on June 19. Tom mentioned that the Boy Scouts would also be involved in this event.

## Old Business

Dave Hassell, N5IW, presented the club with our new PC Projector. Dave, at the club's request, had researched what type of projector would best suit the club's needs and presented that information at last month's meeting. Dave then purchased for the club a Dell 2200MP PC projector. Club members were impressed with the purchase and the function of the projector.

Jim Mischel, KB7UQD, gave the club an update on the need for volunteer radio operators for the Women's Adventure Race coming up on September 5. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Jim by e-mail at [jim@mischel.com](mailto:jim@mischel.com).

## New Business

Jim Bittick, KC5BHF, has scheduled our Fall Picnic for October 9 at San Gabriel Park. We will be at the same shelter and Jim has agreed to do the cooking at this club event.

Rick Trommer, W5RHT, told the club about a Live Audio website that has Fire and EMS transmissions covering most of central Texas including Williamson County. The URL is <http://www.scancentex.com>.

John Warren, NT5C, will bring refreshments to next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

## Program

The program was presented by Dick Foster, W5TA, who reviewed Field Day requirements and plans. ☒

## The ARES Report

by Williamson County EC Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Inputs for the newsletter are collected mid-month so some of this month's busy activity is still in the future with Field Day next weekend as I'm writing this. More on FD later.

Last month I acknowledged Darrell Bizzell, KD5PUJ, for connecting us with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office Homeland Defense Unit volunteers (now renamed the Homeland Security Unit or HSU for short). I'm writing this after just completing our first exercise with this team this afternoon (June 19). This exercise was a Search and Rescue exercise looking for a simulated lost child and it went very well. Here is a brief rundown of this activity:

*A Travis County Search and Rescue team joined in with members of the HSU, and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) combined this activity with their weekend exercise. The American Red Cross brought a mobile van out with a support team that provided water and snacks in addition to being prepared to do more if needed.*

*WC-ARES was responsible for linking communications with the CAP with the Incident Command Post (ICP) and for communications between the ICP and individual search teams. The ICP was located just past Russell Park on 3405.*

*CAP communications were run from their command post at Hangar 6 at the Georgetown Airport. Harvey Henning, N0AJP, was at the Georgetown airport seated with the CAP communications team and was our liaison to the CAP. In addition, the CAP had an individual at the ICP. I started at the Airport and then transferred the flag to the ICP.*

*Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, ran the control net from the airport using the 146.64 repeater. Dallas had relatively light duty in this exercise but would have been quite busy in a longer, more involved situation.*

*Dan Poggemiller, KB5TWO, ran things from the ICP at the search site. Requests to the CAP or elsewhere went through Dan. The CAP representative at the site stayed with Dan. In addition to monitoring the repeater, Dan monitored CAP frequencies and operations on our simplex frequency.*

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*Virgil Buell, KD5KQV, was liaison to the search team and communicated with members of the search team on a simplex 2M frequency. We organized things this way to insure that no communications with the team members were missed as well as not missing information on the net frequency. This worked out well because at times there was quite a bit of activity on the simplex frequency. HSU members sat with Virgil and logged information relayed from the search teams.*

*HSU search team members use FRS radios to communicate with each other but these are of limited use over a large search. Even though this search was only over an 11 acre area with the ICP centrally located, the HSU leadership team could often not hear reports over the FRS channel. Amateur Radio to the rescue! When a team leader would want to communicate something back, they learned to use the amateur operator assigned to that team. We had amateurs out with each search team Columbia shuttle recovery style with Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ, Ken Larsen, KC5RPF, and Bill Goff, N5WCB, providing communications back to KD5KQV. Galen also had a portable GPS unit and he was in demand providing coordinates on items or victims located. Our team members basically stayed behind the search lines and communicated as requested.*

*The HSU team was mighty impressed with the job done by the team, as was I. Many thanks to the team for a job well done! I know I learned from the exercise and I think everyone did -- and we did a great job of demonstrating our capabilities.*

With June comes Field Day and ARES will do the message handling again this year (next weekend as I'm writing this). Our new Packet Messaging system is in early testing but we have decided to "Test the dilithium crystals in combat!" as James T. Kirk would say. Virgil Buell, KD5KQV, will lead this effort from the FD site and will communicate with Jeff Schmidt, N5MNW, from the Austin site. Voice messaging will be a backup.

I completed the ARRL ARECC Level 1 course this month and have enrolled in Level 2. Level 1 is great overall training in emergency communication and the other course build from there. These are self-paced with an assigned mentor and it all takes place on the web. I highly recommend these courses!

**A reminder:** The ARES meeting is the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock fire station now at 7PM. I want to thank Joe Dorn, W5VEX, for a great program on APRS last month to a packed house. This month's program will be construction of Ladder Line J-Poles and should be both fun and useful.

And we also hope to hear you on the Sunday evening nets on 145.130 at 8PM. The response to these has been great – keep it up! ☒

## JULY EVENTS

July 10: Tidelands Amateur Radio Society Hamfest, Texas City TX. Information at <http://www.tidelands.org/> or contact Joe Wileman, AA5OP, at 409-945-6794 or e-mail ([aa5op@arrl.net](mailto:aa5op@arrl.net)).

July 17: Central Texas Storm Spotters (CTSS) 1st annual BBQ/Picnic at Belton Lake, Belton TX. This will be an all-day event with food, water/lake activities, etc. Bring the family and your own food. There will be a couple grills, but is basically all self-serve. If you have a boat/jet ski, bring it. There is a minimal entrance fee to the park of \$1 per person (max of \$4 per car), kids under 12 free. Boat ramp fee is \$3. There are camping areas with power, for extra fees. See <http://www.centexstormspotters.net> or address information requests to Jeff Draper, N5SSI, by e-mail ([chase-1@austin.rr.com](mailto:chase-1@austin.rr.com)).

### And right around the corner . . .

August 6-7: Austin Summerfest at the Red Lion Hotel, Austin TX. Details at <http://www.austinsummerfest.org/>.

