

The WCARC Report

November 2004

Our Next Meeting

This is the big one – election of club officers, and committee appointments too!

Come and vote, come and volunteer! It's the best chance all year to have a real impact on our club and its activities for the next 12 months.

With some offices still open, volunteer nominees are needed and welcomed!

We'll also be greeting some of the new hams who acquired their licenses after completing the Technician class our club offered this fall. Come and make them feel welcome!

We've got a great program on tap too. Mark Stennett, NA6M, will give a presentation on his repeater, repeater frequency coordination, and maybe a few words on digipeaters.

The date is December 2, at 7:00p.m. Don't miss it!

Our November Meeting

by Club Secretary Greg Worthington, AG5W

The November 4, 2004 meeting of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Rick Trommer, W5RHT. There were 33 members and guests who signed the attendance sheet.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as posted on the WCARC web site in the October issue of the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Club Treasurer Jon Boles, K5AEM, offered this report:

October, 2004

Beginning balance	\$ 2514.01
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 90.00
Expenditures	\$ 676.44
Ending Balance	\$1927.57
ARES Funds	\$ 47.12
WCARC Funds	\$ 1880.45

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read.

DX Report

John McColly, W5RQ, noted that 10 meters continues to be opening up for DX even at this low point in the sunspot cycle.

Contest Report

Dave Hassell, N5IW, reported that there are at least 19 contests in November. Among those will be the ARRL CW Sweepstakes on November 5; the ARRL SSB

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The President's Corner

Well, by the time the club reads this I'll be in Shanghai, China! I knew that sooner or later I was going to have to make a trip China but I guess I wanted to put it off for as long as I could. My license from the Chinese Radio Sports Association has been completed and I'm able to use BY4/W5RHT for the time that I'm going to be in China. Now I'm hoping that I can get some free time on the weekends to use this license!

The club's Technician class has been holding the students' enthusiasm as we keep the same 10 to 12 students each week. Greg Worthington, AG5W, has put together a good lineup of instructors, and I'm hoping for at least 10 new licensed operators out of this group by the time that I return to the States.

This past year has been quite a bit of fun for me; the role of president of the Williamson County Radio Club has been more fun than I thought it would. I really appreciate everyone's help with all of our club-sponsored events throughout the year. From our swap fest, Field Day and picnic I have been able to count on each of our members to pitch in and make all of these events fun and rewarding for the club.

As members of the WCARC, you need to feel proud of your work and efforts as we really have something that other clubs are missing: the closeness of our members, folks that we can count on and find support in.

Thanks to everyone for making this a fun year to be your president!

The club elections are gearing up as Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, and Dick Foster, W5TA, are busy finding folks to fill the positions. Please make every effort to support the club, and if you can, put your name in the hat to run as a club officer.

I'm scheduled to return home on Friday, December 3rd around midnight, so if all goes well and I make my flights I hope to see everyone on Saturday morning at the Monument Café.

73, Rick W5RHT

Technician Class Report

by Class Coordinator Greg Worthington, AG5W

Thanks so much to the VE's who helped with our WCARC VE test session on November 20th. They were: John Fabac, N5MX, Duane Calvin, AC5AA, Richard Chapman, K5RIK, Bob Redoutey, N5KF, Curt Goodson, W4QBU, and Joe Dorn, W5VEX.

We had fourteen test candidates, with most coming from our WCARC Technician class. I would say that we were quite successful with 11 new licenses or upgrades: eight Technician, two General, and one Extra. Two candidates also passed the 5 WPM code test. Additionally some of the members from the class passed more elements than their Technician element. With a bit of work on the code, we could have at least one more General soon.

I think that the success of the club class was clearly due to the fine efforts of those who did the teaching over the past four weeks. The fact that we had a dozen students that kept coming back from week to week with so many of them passing the Technician exam and beyond shows me that the instructors did an excellent job.

One more time for the record, the instructors were: Session One - Tom Whiteside, N5TW, and Robb Romans, KD5SQF; Session Two - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, and Cecil Turquette, K5YQF; Session Three - Jon Boles, K5AEM, and Rick Huff, KD5RAI; and Session Four - Dick Foster, W5TA, and Kees Talen, K5BCQ.

All of the students expressed appreciation to the club, and I too thank all of you that participated directly or indirectly to help make this a successful class. ☒

Upcoming Events

Dec 4: 6th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day – 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. A chance to operate from the National Weather Service's office ham station in New Braunfels, KD5UMW ("ugly, miserable weather").

Dec 14: AARC Christmas Party – 6:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2008 Justin Lane, Austin. Cost is \$7 per person in advance or \$10 per person at the door. Includes BBQ dinner, entertainment, contests, door prizes. Details at <http://www.austinhams.org/xmas2004.html>.

Jan 8: San Antonio Radio Club Swapmeet – 8:00a.m. to noon at Little Joe's Country Gold, 7405 Old Pearsall Road, San Antonio. Talk-in on 146.940- (179.9 PL) and 444.100+ (179.9 PL). For details, address your e-mail to swapfest@w5sc.org.

Sweepstakes on November 20; and the CQWW CW DX on November 27.

Repeater Report

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, commented that the repeater is working well.

ARES Report

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, reported that there will be a review of the Simulated Emergency Test at this month's meeting on November 11.

Refer to the WCARES Report on page 4 for more details.

Old Business

New Officers Committee

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, requested further inputs for his new officers committee. Currently Jon Boles, K5AEM, and Greg Worthington, AG5W, agree to continue in their current offices of Treasurer and Secretary respectively, should the club agree. Dick Foster, W5TA, would agree to the Vice President role again if some sort of assistance such as a program committee were also in place. Mark Stenett, NA6M, has agreed to accept the nomination as next year's President.

Nominations will formally be made and closed next meeting. If you have any candidate in mind or would like to hold one of the club offices yourself, please contact Dallas at mylastname@myway.com.

Ham Radio Classes

Greg Worthington, AG5W, announced that the WCARC Technician License class has been going very well. Prior to the meeting, two sessions had been completed. Tom Whiteside, N5TW, and Robb Romans, KD5SQF, handled the first session. Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, and Cecil Turquette, K5YQF, handled session number two. We had about a dozen students in each of the first two classes, which is promising for our goal to get several new hams into the hobby after our November 20 testing session.

Remaining Class Dates: November 6 and 13

Class Times: 8:30 to 11:00a.m.

Class Location: Round Rock Central Fire Station

Text: *Now You're Talking* (Fifth Edition), available from the club for \$15

With the good class turnout, the club is planning to have a testing session on November 20 at the same location and time as the classes. Although this is primarily for the Technician class license, all elements including the 5WPM code test, will be available at the November 20th session. The details will be posted on the club web site.

Trailer Project

John McColly, W5RQ, reported that he had received good response to his e-mail inquiries as to experience and advice from those who have undertaken similar projects. Feedback to date includes insurance, outfitting, and trailers themselves. John will follow-up in the next two months.

New Business

ARRL New Memberships and Renewals via WCARC

Rick Trommer, W5RHT, said that the ARRL has announced that both new member applications and renewals of ARRL memberships via the club will result in rebates to the club. Details will be posted on the WCARC web site and will be handled via club Treasurer Jon Boles, K5AEM.

FIST Coast to Coast Contest Using WC5T

Cecil Turquette, K5YQF, used the club call sign, WC5T, for the FIST Coast to Coast contest last month. His goal was to have fun with a CW contest that wasn't as intense as many of the other contests are. The club's FIST number is 8000, and as a club station, Cecil was allowed to be one of the stations calling CQ. He made 132 contacts with stations in 35 states including Hawaii. Some of the non-US DX was with New Zealand, Italy, and the Azores. Due to Cecil's effort, the club now also has a CC# that can be used in future contests. This CC# is 1657.

Winlink

Jim Hester, K5HTK, reported that Winlink was up and running.

President to China

Club President Rick Trommer, W5RHT, announced that his job will be taking him to China, and he will not be present for the December meeting. He may have access to a station and will let us know so we can try to make contact with him while he's there. So this being Rick's last meeting, he thanked the club for support during his term. He was also clear to say that even though he enjoyed the past year as the club's

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Our November Meeting, *continued from page 3*

president, that honor should go to someone new for next year.

Rick has been an outstanding president, contributing to the club with his leadership and by getting directly involved in the club's activities throughout the year.

December Refreshments

Dennis Murphy, W5KQF, who does such a fine job with the club newsletter, has agreed to provide refreshments for the December meeting.

November Program

Ken Harker, W5MR, provided an excellent program and basic tutorial on RF Safety. ☒

The ARES Report

by Williamson County EC Tom Whiteside, N5TW

This will be a short report this month. It has been nice to slack the pace a bit after the hectic months leading up to our SET. We did have two weather nets today as I'm writing this. We had several reports of large hail and several funnel clouds were seen in the area – so we can never be complacent!

We had a great meeting reviewing the SET goals and results and I appreciate the participation. Our December meeting will be Barry Brandenberger, KD5SFK, and Jim Russell, NQ5L, presenting sound card based Paclink solutions. Both of these guys have super working stations and I look forward to learning more about this!

A preview to January's meeting: As we did this year, January will be a goal setting meeting for the year and we will also review how we did relative to this year's goals. Please be thinking about this and bring your ideas to the meeting.

I'm working on meeting topics for next year. Please let me know if you have a program you'd like to see!

Finances

We continue to have expenses associated with the deployment of our new Winlink systems and expect

some expenses in other areas so please continue to clean out unused radio items and hand them to Kees Talen, K5BCQ, to sell! All the contributions are much appreciated!

A reminder: The ARES meeting is the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock fire station, starting 7:00p.m. And please participate in our Sunday evening nets at 8:00p.m. on 145.130. ☒

WCARC-Owned Equipment List Who Has What -- and Since When

Tower work

Gin pole – John Benedict, KE5RS – 8/30/2003
Tower step – Jeff Schmidt, N5MNM – 8/7/2003

Antenna Measurement

MFJ Analyzer – Mike Blanchard, N5KDY – 8/1/2004
MFJ Grid Dip Adapter – Stuart Rohre, K5KVH – 3/4/2004

Antennas

Butternut HF Vertical 10M-80M – Bob Helms, AF5Z
Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical – Dick Foster, W5TA – 8/5/2004
Hygain Triband – Dick Foster W5TA – 7/4/2003
Mosley Triband – to be picked up from Harvey Henning, N0AJP

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 – Tom Whiteside, N5TW – 7/14/2004

Miscellaneous

Heavy Duty Power Cords (2) – Chris Hill, KC5AQF

Pending Sale

Commercial Grade Antenna – Bob Helms, AF5Z.

