

Newsletter July, 1995

Minutes of last meeting

President Greg Worthington called the meeting to order at 7.35pm. There were at least 35 attendees present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the June newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT Current balance is \$1787.51. Report approved.

Further discussion of a regular annual budgeting process was postponed until the next meeting.

GUESTS Stephen Neubauer KC5ATB, Kevin Roeber KC5OLC, Scott Simmons (unlicensed), Eric Van Horn WA4ROV.

OLD BUSINESS

Chris KC5AQF reported that 9 students successfully completed the General License classes. The participants seemed well satisfied with the quality. No exam was given, because several are available in the greater Austin area (the first on Sat June 3). Some General Class Manuals were left over.

Dan KB5TWO reported that the ARES group photo did not come out, and will have to be re-taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Considerable time was spent planning for Field Day, June 24 & 25. John NT5C gave a short presentation explaining Field Day objectives, procedures and scoring to our newer hams. Billy N5UMR then went into the detailed arrangements. The location will be adjacent to the GISD football field off Austin Ave/San Gabriel Park. Set up will start by 8.30am Sat. All help will be appreciated! An operating roster for the two HF stations was started, but to complete it (and to remind everyone closer to the time) arrangements will be made to 'phone all members. We expect to have the "bonus" novice/tech-plus station permitted with two primary transmitters. The meeting approved the expenditure of up to \$100 for Field Day refreshments.

The business meeting adjourned at 8.45 pm, after which Wayne W5XD gave a hands-on demonstration of his contest logging software, "WriteLog for Windows".

73...John Warren NT5C

ARES News

Oklahoma City Blast

Here is an update from Tom Webb, WA9AFM/S who is the Public Information Coordinator for Oklahoma. Within minutes the net control station, which is located at the Salvation Army Center, was up and operating. For the first few hours following the blast, telephone circuits were jammed or inoperative.

Volunteer operators were assigned to five Salvation Army Canteens, Salvation Army Headquarters, the Red Cross Command Post and the primary search and rescue command post. About 20 amateurs provided much needed reliable communications for the rescue efforts. Amateurs also contributed in other areas:

1. Coordinated the food, water and equipment distribution.
2. Delivery of vital materials
3. Accompanied senior relief officials and provided them with VHF and UHF mobile communications.
4. Accepted and responded to health and welfare enquiries.

A mobile repeater station had to be set up because of signal blockage from the large buildings.

A total of more than 100 amateurs have participated in relief efforts. Most are from the Oklahoma City area.

Alpine, Texas Earthquake

At 2105 on April 13 Gary Peek, N5XXF, the EC for Ector County received the request from the American Red Cross for communications assistance. Gary began the emergency callup procedure and opened the net. Two members were designated to

begin HF operation from their homes and they established contact with Alpine within 10 minutes.

Regardless of the many press releases to the contrary, not much damage was experienced. The amateur response to the Alpine earthquake was considered a success and two valuable lessons were learned:

1. Reliable communications was established through the West Texas Connection and the Southwest Lynx Repeater systems from Ector County to the Alpine area. An attempt is being made to obtain written agreements with the owners and custodians of these repeater systems for future emergency use.

2. Many false statements were made to the press by an individual amateur. This was a very bad scene. Let's all become members of the Williamson County ARES and pay special attention to the validity of information that we pass on.

New Repeater Site

The N5SBH repeater is now located at my QTY here in Round Rock. This repeater transmits on 443.425 and the input is on 445.425.
73...Dan Pogemiller KB5TWO

WCARC Programs

Brad Rhem KV5V will be the guest speaker at the July 6 meeting. Brad's topics are "Mobile Equipment Installation" and "Mobile Noise Reduction". These are very valuable topics and should be interesting! See you then.

73...Rick Trommer KB5YTG

Calendar of Events

August 4-6 Austin Summerfest. Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter for details.

August 4-6 West Gulf Division Convention Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter for details.

July 29 Texas City Hamfest by the Tidelands ARS will be held at the Nessler Civic Center, 2010 5th Avenue.

July 22 Ham Radio Exams for all license classes will be given at Fleck Hall, Room 109 on the campus of St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, Austin, Texas. Bring a photo ID, one other method of identification, your present license (not a copy), any C.S.C.E's, and \$5.90 to cover the cost of pencils, pens and testing fee.

Future dates for the above tests are:

August 19
September 30
October 21

A Note from the Treasurer

If your newsletter is marked "Dues Due" on the front envelope, please respond with your radio club dues in order to continue to receive the newsletter. Thanks.

73...Bob Redoutey KF5KF

DX Column

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT NERDS?

So you think DXers are square, huh.

Back in late '88, I operated from home as Bicentennial station W200KA, for the Austin club, W5KA. (It's fun being at the "supply" end of a pileup!). Anyway, I heard a sweet YL voice among all the OMs calling me, so - like any normal guy - I asked her to go ahead, and we had a short, pleasant QSO. Then I went back to the pileup and forgot about it. She didn't.

When I walked into the June '89 meeting of the Austin club, I was surrounded by people saying they never knew ham radio was so much fun, THIS is how we should attract young people, and they didn't know ex-Brits were like THAT! Finally someone showed me the QSL card. Oh my!! RobinLee's address was Howard Beach, New York (isn't that area well known for...er...), and her professional name was Candi. There was a photo too, with Candi holding a rose stem in that lovely smile. No, I won't tell you her callsign, but I guarantee that her QSL never made it to ARRL

for DXCC credit!!

That wasn't the only fun I had as W200KA. Early on, I worked KC4GTN in Virginia. David was a 9 year old novice. Then, just as I was getting ready to QRT at the end of my final time slot, two VKs in Australia frantically called me: "Please listen for Harry, VK4HA!". Harry was a barely detectable 3 and 3, but it was worth the effort. He was 97 years old. That's a spread of 88 years worked in six hours - I'll bet very few people can beat that.

But the story didn't end there. Harry's QSL arrived fairly quickly (a photo of a beautiful YL on a Brisbane beach - hope I'm like that when I'm 97), but nothing from young David. Now I wanted those two QSLs. I waited and waited. Finally, I took the only action I could think of - I 'phoned David's mother! Sure enough, within a week along comes his QSL with a very apologetic little note. I'll bet that's the only QSL ever expedited by calling the operator's mother to complain.

73 John Warren NT5C
Have fun DXing,

President's Column

I was glad to see many of you at Field Day. It was great fun and enjoyed by all of those who could attend. Many amateur radio clubs sponsor transmitter hunts, but I believe that we at the WCARC are the first to sponsor an "official" Field Day site hunt. Maybe we'll make this an annual part of the WCARC Field Day.

Special thanks to Billy, N5UMR, Jerry, N5CNG, Pete, DB5YWL, Bill, N5EIF, and the club officers for the preparation, planning, and execution of the event. Thanks to everyone who provided equipment, trailers, and manpower to make the event more comfortable and provide a variety of operational modes.

This is my first Field Day and certainly will not be my last.

We are in the process of updating the club Bylaws. Joyce, KC5LNL has completed a review of our current document and has made initial updates for format, spelling, grammar, and changes for easier reading and less repetition.

I will be making some basic changes to have the bylaws more accurately reflect the way we operate. Please provide me your inputs in the next couple of months so we can complete the update no later than September.

I hope to see you all at the July meeting.

73...Greg Worthington AB5NG

Buy, Rent, Sell or Trade

For Sale: ICOM-701 Transceiver with its heavy duty 12 volt power supply, instruction manual and all literature. All for \$300. I paid \$395 for it from the HAM store in SATX a month ago while my 757 was being repaired. I have it on the air now if anyone wants to drop by and take a look and listen.

Jackson Daugherty N5FKE
3200 Primrose Trail
Georgetown, Tx
Phone 869-6989

For Sale: Kenwood TR-7400 2 meter FM transceiver. Great condition. Includes manuals, mounting bracket and touchtown microphone. All for \$150.

For Sale: Commodore 64 computer. Perfect for CW, RTTY or Packet. Includes AEA CP1 interface, floppy, manuals, books and software and software. All for \$150

Bob Redoutey KF5KF
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