

The WCARC Report

September 2004

WCARC Technician License Class

The WCARC plans to conduct classes for the Technician License starting October 23, 2004. Sessions will be held on four consecutive Saturdays, concluding on November 13. The classes will run from 8:30 to 11:00a.m. We expect they will be held at the Round Rock Central Fire Station. The classes will be free of charge, but students are strongly urged to obtain a copy of the text for the class, *Now You're Talking!* (5th Edition), which lists for \$19.95.

The club would like to see the class start with at least 20 students, with 10 being the minimum required for the course to be offered. Please contact anyone you know who may be interested!

A few club members have already volunteered to be instructors, but we are looking for at least 10. This would allow for two instructors per weekend with a couple of back-up instructors should they be needed. If you are interested, please contact our course coordinator, Greg Worthington, AG5W.

Our thanks to everyone for supporting this important activity. We're looking forward to a successful class and a bunch of new hams. ☒

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 The President's Corner
- 2 October Events
- 4 The ARES Report
- 5 WCARC-Owned Equipment List

Our September Meeting

by Club Secretary Greg Worthington, AG5W

The September 2, 2004 meeting of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Rick Trommer, W5RHT. There were 34 who signed the attendance sheet.

The minutes posted on the WCARC web site were approved as amended by Tom Whiteside, N5TW. The amendment was in reference to the scope of the victory for N5TW, W5TA, and KE5C in the 160 meter contest. (Who says no one reads the minutes.)

Treasurer's Report

Club Treasurer Jon Boles, K5AEM, offered this report:

August, 2004

Beginning balance	\$ 3098.79
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 86.00
Expenditures	\$ 1131.11
Ending Balance	\$ 2053.68
ARES Funds	(\$ 188.76)
WCARC Funds	\$ 1864.92

DX Report

John Warren, NT5C, reported that FK/C – Chesterfield Islands should be on the air in October. Peter One Island will be on the air in January – February 2005 as 3Y0X.

Contest Report

John McColly, W5RQ, urged club members to participate in the Texas QSO Party on September 25

continued on page 3

The President's Corner

Well it looks like our section of the country was once again spared from the wind, rain and storms. The band has been very active with everyone watching the weather and nets of all kinds popping up. Seems like 20 meters has been active all day and all night, and it is amazing how many folks are on the air at 3:00a.m. just checking into the different nets.

At our last meeting, Greg Worthington, AG5W, pulled up some great information on just how we should organize the next series of classes. I have been receiving a few inquiries by e-mail as a result of our newspaper advertisements and I'm hoping that everyone who has asked about the class will follow through and sign up. Let's keep talking up this class and see if any of our friends or neighbors would like to give this hobby a try. Greg has been pushing to have at least 10 students commit to the class before we commit to conducting it; let's make every effort to double that number and make this class a great success for the students as well as for our club.

Greg is still looking for volunteer instructors. The club will provide the teaching materials but we need you to provide the talent and motivation to help with teaching at least one of the chapters. Please check with Greg and see how you can volunteer and sign up for one of these sessions.

I'm sure that Greg will have updates for us at our October meeting.

The nominating committee has started to form. Both Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, and Dick Foster, W5TA, have volunteered to head up this committee. They realize that if you are on the nominating committee you probably won't be asked to run for office – smart folks! Well, the remainder of us better think about the future of the club, so if you have any suggestions on which of our members you would like to see hold a given office, contact Dallas or Dick and give them your opinions. And on the other side of the coin, if they ask you if you would like to hold an officer position, please consider it and think about how we can provide the club with leadership and fun.

If you would like to see any changes to the club, this would be a good time to suggest them and move some key members into club positions.

Dick, W5TA, has been successful over the past months pulling folks in to provide the club with some really fine presentations. But this is another call for club members to provide some fun and education to

the rest of us. Give the other members a little insight as to how you use our hobby from day to day, fill us in on how you started the hobby and what is the most fun you have had as a novice working your way up the ranks. Or simply bring in some of your most cherished and favorite QSL cards – you must have some stories on how you obtained that prize card!

Give us a few minutes of your time; tell the club about your radio interests and remember, if you give us a presentation, you will receive a WCARC T-shirt for your efforts.

As a reminder to all of our members, our next club picnic will be on October 9th at San Gabriel Park.

As a swap fest reminder . . .

Oct 2 Ham Expo, Temple Amateur Radio Club
Nov 5, 6 Austin Radio Round Up (Jeff Fest)

With that I hope to see you at breakfast next Saturday at the Monument Café.

73, Rick W5RHT

October Events

Oct 2: Belton Ham Expo – from 7:00a.m. on, at the Bell County Expo Center, Belton TX. For details check the Temple ARC web site, <http://www.tarc.org>.

Oct 9: Outlaw Trail 100 – the WCARC helps provide sag wagon and emergency communication services during this bike ride in Williamson County, sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Round Rock. Get involved! Contact Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX (mylastname@yahoo.com). Event info at http://www.ci.round-rock.tx.us/parks-rec/outlaw_trail.html.

Oct 9: WCARC Fall Picnic – from 5:00p.m. on, at the Arbors in San Gabriel Park, Georgetown TX. All club members invited! Bring a dessert and come on out!

Oct 16: WCARES SET – 9:00a.m. to noon. For details contact Williamson County EC Tom Whiteside, N5TW (tomw@ecpi.com),.

Oct 23-Nov 13: WCARC Technician License Class – 8:30 to 11:00a.m. at the Round Rock Central Fire Station. Students and instructors are still needed! For details contact Greg Worthington, AG5W (ag5w@aol.com), course coordinator.

and 26. He updated the club on the Hiram Percy Maxim contest/event where stations would use the /135 along with their call signs, and the Route 66 activity where stations along the old Route 66 highway would use 1X1 call signs from W6A to W6O.

Repeater Report

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, reported that work to fix the packet antenna is proceeding.

ARES Report

Refer to the WCARES report on page 4.

Old Business

Women's Adventure Race

Jim Mischel, KB7UQD, requested volunteers to support the Women's Adventure Race that will be held in Austin on September 5, 2004. This is Texas' largest adventure race for women, and Jim needs about 10 volunteers.

Sun City Ham Radio Demonstration

Jim Hester, K5HTK, confirmed that a group of Sun City operators are going to set up an "emergency field day" demonstration to let the people of Sun City understand what ham radio can do. The open house will have five tables set up with themes including: Mobile HF, Nostalgia, Packet, and ARES.

Trailer Project

John McColly, W5RQ, is contacting other clubs to gather data on how they were successful in pursuit of similar projects.

Sales on eBay

Kees Talen, K5BCQ, will continue to sell equipment provided by club members over eBay in support of the ARES activities. In a note totally out of character for Kees, he agreed to include equipment that is not in pristine condition.

New Business

Outlaw Trail 100 Race

As in previous years, Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, is looking for volunteers to support the Outlaw Trail 100 race on October 9. Interested parties should contact Dallas directly.

New Officers Committee

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, agreed to chair the committee to nominate new officers for the club.

WCARC Swapfest

Rick Trommer, W5RHT, has agreed to lead the club effort for the 2005 WCARC Swapfest, possibly in lieu of being club president. Since this is a major event for the club, it will certainly make the job of the 2005 president much easier. It was moved, seconded, and passed to authorize Cliff White, WB5DYA, to spend up to \$350 for door prizes for this event.

Ham Radio Classes

Greg Worthington, AG5W, reported that the response to date for potential students and instructors has been less than we would have liked. At this point, we have about five students and no committed instructors. It was suggested that one reason for reluctance to volunteer or sign up was the lack of a clear date for the class. It was suggested by Tom Whiteside, N5TW, that we move the tentative class start date from September until October 23 to avoid any number of other events.

During the meeting several members volunteered to take instructor positions, and the club in general agreed to continue to pursue this important activity for the club and ham radio as a whole.

We will reassess the class at the October meeting and hope to have the minimum of ten students for the class at that time.

Parts Bins to Give Away

Jim Hester, K5HTK, has a number of parts bins that he will give to anyone. Please contact Jim directly for this.

October Refreshments

Mike Goin, W5GIC, agreed to provide refreshments for the October meeting.

The September Program

Milton Cram, W8NUE, whose project was featured on the cover of *QST*, reviewed his NUEKey with the club along with design parameters and discussion. In addition to the key that was featured in *QST*, Milt had new generations of the design to share with the club.

Minutes submitted by the honorable and apparently mistake prone club secretary, Greg Worthington, AG5W.

The ARES Report

by Williamson County EC Tom Whiteside, N5TW

There were a number of activities this month. We had two good training opportunities with participation in the ARCHES drill and the Woman's Activity bike race. We had a great program on Winlink including a demonstration at the ARES meeting thanks to KI5DR. Progress was made getting ready for our SET on October 16th. We made great progress raising money for our packet expenditures. And I finished the ARES ARECC Level III course. Another busy month!

ARCHES Drill August 28th

At the request of Travis County ARES, we participated in their big ARCHES exercise. Today, Williamson County has only Round Rock Hospital on the ARCHES system but will soon have Georgetown Hospital and Taylor Hospital – see Dallas if you are interested in participating in ARCHES. The drill simulated severe weather creating a heavy patient load and then simulated a tornado taking out a couple of hospitals in Austin forcing evacuation to Round Rock Hospital – Gulp! To prepare for the onslaught, WA0YVQ started a resource net – thanks to N0AJP, N5WCB, KI5DR, WD5BIM, W5TQ, KA5E, KC1MK and N5NIR for checking into this net. Austin needed a portable packet station and N5NMW was able to respond so we dispatched him to Bee Caves. KD4HNX, N5NMW, KE5CAL, N5EXY, KB5TWO, KE5RS and myself participated at the fire station.

Woman's Activity Race

Thanks to Jim Mischel, KB7UQD, for leading the charge for this event September 5th. WA0YVQ, AB5EK, KI5DR, KD5ZRM, N0XRR, KB5OEL, KE5RS and myself participated. A great training event for a great cause!

New ARES EC for Burnet and Llano counties

Our very own, Rik Chapman, K5RIK, has been appointed EC for Burnet and Llano counties. Rik is building this group up from scratch and we appreciate an ally to our West – way to go, Rik!

Williamson County Organization Changes

I felt that we needed an AEC to focus on Round Rock and Dan Poggemiller has agreed to take this on. Previously, Dan was Williamson County Red Cross AEC. Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, has agreed to take on a consolidated Red Cross post for Williamson and Travis Counties. Thanks, fellows!

SET

Mark your calendar for October 16th 9a.m. to noon for our annual SET. The goal of this year's SET is functional:

- To quantify simplex performance between EOCs and also home check-ins.
- To deploy and test Packet Cavalry operation from as many EOCs as possible.
- To increase the number of operators familiar with specific EOCs.
- Verify EOC equipment and antenna functionality.
- Have high participation.

As SETs go, this should be a low stress one and we hope this will add to participation. There are many folks working on portable Paclink stations and we hope to spur development and participation from as many Paclink stations as possible. I'm asking each of the EOC AECs to find a backup that we can list on the org chart just in case and this will be a great time for backups to get up to speed on an EOC.

**Please consider being an EOC AEC backup!
Contact me or an EOC AEC if you are willing to
take on this important responsibility!**

Our EOC AECs are:

Cedar Park:	Lee Cooper, W5LHC
Georgetown:	Jim Hester, K5HTK
Round Rock:	Dan Poggemiller, KB5TWO
County:	Craig Boegler, W5TSN

Winlink 2000

We owe a big thanks to Scott Pederson, KI5DR, for creating a terrific presentation that details step by step what you need to do to get a Paclink node going – a Paclink node is what the individual stations in the Packet Cavalry will be running. To get a copy of this presentation: <http://www.ki5dr.com/images/wc-ares.ppt> By the way, Scott's presentation has gotten rave reviews from the Winlink users group and this link is now referenced on the Winlink 2000 web site! His demo sending e-mail back and forth at the ARES meeting was very interesting including sending out pages from this packet setup. Paclink stations connect with Telpack nodes and Scott now has a KI5DR-5 node operating on 145.730. There is also an N5TW node up on this frequency.

Lee Cooper, W5LHC, has a commitment from Cedar Park that they will buy the radio, TNC and other stuff

for a permanent Paclink station at the EOC there – way to go, Lee! That is the first area EOC to the party!

Mark Stennett, NA6M, resolved the problem with the High Node antenna that hangs just under the 147.08 repeater antenna – an open jumper. He has had that repeater on this antenna for a couple of weeks and coverage results are super. We hope to get the TNC installed there shortly and a node going there when Internet service is available – Thanks, Mark!

Bill Goff, N5WCB, has scrounged a first class computer for what will eventually become a full fledged “PMBO” server here. I know all these terms are confusing – a PMBO is like a Telpack node but has the smarts to allow e-mail communication to continue without the Internet for some period of time and will also let us integrate the HF PACTOR III modem. This computer needs a bunch of horsepower and he has created a 2GHz machine with 512MB of RAM. Thanks to Scott, KI5DR, for the hard drive and the Internet Café for contributing the Windows 2000 Operating system, the CD and a processor upgrade. Thanks, Bill, for the effort and expense!

Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ, and Ron Arnett, N5XD, came over and helped me install a dB Products 2 bay antenna on my 100 foot 10M tower. This should improve packet coverage a bit. I’m trying to scrounge 450 feet of 7/8” hardline to install a second antenna – this one 4 bay on my 130 foot 20M tower – this one will ultimately become the packet node antenna here.

I received a note from Jerry Reimer, KK5CA (our Section Emergency Coordinator), detailing some of the Winlink 2000 activity with Hurricane Ivan. He asked that I not pass on details but know that over a 1000 messages have been sent over the system from the Caribbean – many very sensitive – the kind of information you just would not say over a voice channel.

Finances:

Last month, I put out a plea for ARES equipment contributions that we could convert to cash to cover our packet expenses and you responded wonderfully. Thanks to Rick Trommer, W5RHT, for a very generous \$100 cash contribution. Equipment donations were converted to over \$400 in cash by the talented Kees Talen – great job, Kees!!!! This puts us back in the black. We have more expenses coming so please take a look in your closet for unused radio equipment and consider turning it over to Kees!

Net Control position still open

Steve Nuebauer, AD5JZ, is still looking for an operator for the rotating Sunday evening net position – one of the best training opportunities around. Contact Steve if you have an interest in this slot.

Vacation time

Judy and I are off to NYC for a nine-day vacation September 20th through September 29th. Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ, will be acting EC – thanks, Galen!

A reminder: The ARES meeting is the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock fire station now at 7p.m. The program will be preparation for the SET.

And we also hope to hear you on the Sunday evening nets on 145.130 at 8p.m. We have been averaging about 25 folks on these and they always have a brief snippet of training courtesy of Chris Hill, KC5AQF. ☒

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 – 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.