



WCARC News

January 2005

www.wcarc.com

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our club:

W5MEG	Marcus Gellner	Round Rock
N3NXV	John Whill	Round Rock
KE5DFM	Norm Taliaferro Jr	Georgetown
W5CRW	Quinnie Flint	Round Rock
AD5TF	Steve Mook	Round Rock
W5ATA	Robert McCord	Round Rock
W9BF	Bob Farmer	Liberty Hill

February Events

Feb 3rd - WCARC Meeting

7:30PM
 Wesleyan Retirement Home
 1105 S. Church St.
 Georgetown, TX 78626

Feb 6th - WCARC Sunday Swapfest

Sunday, Feb 6th 2005 – 12PM - 3PM
 San Gabriel Park Community Center, Georgetown TX

See February Events - page 4

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January Meeting Minutes

The WCARC meeting was called to order by President Mark Stennett, NA6M. There were 34 members and visitors who signed the attendance sheet.

The minutes posted on the WCARC web site were approved as posted in the December WCARC Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ

December, 2004

Beginning balance	\$2,039.10
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 330.00
Expenditures	\$ 130.42
Ending Balance	\$ 2238.68
ARES Funds	\$ 172.12
WCARC Funds	\$ 2066.56

There was no vote on the Treasurer's report.

(Editor's Note: *The membership will vote on the December report at the February meeting. Holding up the report and asking if there were any questions doesn't cut it.*)

DX Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom discussed the unique situation with the Andaman Island DXpedition where the group's activity turned from DX to supporting the communication needs of the tsunami victims.

Contest Report – Robb Romans, KD5SQF

Robb discussed the upcoming contests including the ARRL RTTY Roundup and the CQWW 160M contests.

See January Meeting - page 3

President's QRM

Happy New Year. I am pleased to be a contributor to this fine organization and thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to be your president.

I enjoyed a unique opportunity this month, to join a fellow ham and good friend of mine on a cross country flight in his private plane from Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, SC, and up the east coast, visiting AM and FM broadcast properties owned by the company I work for. Greg Benson, WA6UNL, was a visitor at the January meeting and spent New Years with us.

During his visit I learned that my presence was needed in Myrtle Beach on short notice and since Greg was already planning on flying back to Richmond, VA, my destination was very much on the way. We decided to fly together and have some fun along the way. In anticipation, I packed a bag full of VHF handhelds, batteries and chargers. The Avgas 100LL was on my company card. I had to fly to Myrtle Beach anyway. We spent about \$300 in fuel getting there, 2 people plus full luggage.

I introduced Greg to FM repeaters while showing him my 147.080/444.525 repeater project. Rummaging around in my box-o-stuff, I found a decent Icom handheld and presented it to him. Repeater lists and the mechanics of how it all works on a national level were discussed. Airborne operation on 2 meters was high on his list.

Greg owns an experimental composite based aircraft called a Defiant. Designed by Burt Rutan, his unconventional twin engine propeller driven craft turns a lot of heads. With fewer than 30 of these home built planes in the air, it is no wonder why.

So long as you are flying VFR, or Visual Flight Rules, and have permission from the pilot, you are free to use ham radio. Leave it to me to create a small pileup on 146.520 while doing 160 knots at 9600 feet above sea level between Georgetown, TX and Myrtle Beach, SC with 1 watt on a handheld Yaesu VX7-R.

We used two radios. The receiver was a Yaesu VX2-R. It was patched into the plane's intercom panel so we could hear what was going on within our noise canceling headsets. With two Lycoming O-360 engines running inline opposed at cruise RPM, making intelligible audio with the VX7-R was quite a trick and involved speaking slowly while the microphone was close lipped. Injecting receive audio into the noise canceling environment of the closed ear headsets made it all possible. During the trip, we made approximately 40 contacts. Offering a unique QSL card for the contact has to date yielded 8 incoming cards.

Should you find yourself with the opportunity to fly with a private pilot, take advantage of it and get a wonderfully different view of the world around you.

Be sure to pack an HT so you can make somebody else's day on the ground. I was surprised at how many folks listen to 146.520 MHz.



QSL Card Front



QSL Card Back

73, Mark NA6M

Website of The Month

Bowden's Hobby Circuits

A small collection of electronic circuits for the hobbyist or student. Site includes over 100 circuit diagrams, links to related sites, commercial kits and projects, newsgroups and educational areas. Most of the circuits can be built with common components available from Radio Shack or salvaged from scrap electronic equipment.

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Bill_Bowden/

Trivia Question

In what year were sunspots first seen in the European continent? Answer on Page 4.

Join Us For Breakfast

WCARC Breakfast - Saturdays at 7AM
Monument Café
1953 S. Austin Avenue
Georgetown Texas 78627

January Meeting - ... continued from page 1

Repeater Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom reports that the 146.640 club repeater is working well.

ARES Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Reference the ARES Report, page 3.

Old Business

Trailer Project – John McColly, W5RQ

No update available.

Georgetown Swapfest – Rick Trommer, W5RHT

The WCARC Georgetown Swapfest will be held Feb 6 at the San Gabriel Park Community Center. Setup will start at 10AM with the doors being open to the public at noon. The event will conclude at 3PM. A VE session will begin at 8:30AM. Refreshments will be provided by the Lion's Club.

Volunteers will be needed to help with setup and cleanup. Those interested should contact Rick.

Talk in will be on the club repeater – 146.640 MHz with a minus 600 kHz offset. Tone is 162.2 Hz but it should be turned off for the event.

New Business

WCARC Newsletter – Mark Stennett, NA6M

Mark informed the club that Dennis Murphy, W5KQF, would no longer be handling the WCARC newsletter. The members gave Dennis a strong round of applause for his fine efforts. Mark has taken over responsibility for the WCARC newsletter and will be getting with Dennis for formats and general contents. At some point in the future, Mark would like to have another club member take over this responsibility.

WCARC Program

Rick Kirchhof, KD5ABM

Rick provided an excellent presentation of mobile installations and techniques focusing mostly on power distribution.

February Refreshments

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, has also agreed to provide refreshments for the February meeting.

Minutes submitted by the honorable club secretary, Greg Worthington, AG5W

ARES Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

We had a great January meeting reviewing the group's many accomplishments last year and making plans for this year.

Highlights from last year include:

- Revamping call-up procedures.
- Creation of a Packet messaging system with portable Packet Cavalry.
- Creation of an HF Cavalry.
- Increased emphasis on training in meetings and nets.
- Sunday Net efficiency improvements.
- Key contact information for surrounding counties now on web site.
- Various public service communication events and a successful SET.
- Published an updated Williamson County ARES plan.

Congratulations to the team for their hard work in 2004. I think we managed to have some fun while doing some good for our community. If you have not been involved in ARES or have been inactive for a while, please accept our invitation to join in with the group. We appreciate participation at whatever level folks are able or willing to do.

Contact Tom Whiteside, N5TW for more information on becoming an ARES member. Email: tomw@ecpi.com

2005 Plan

The theme for 2005 is to really build on the infrastructure we have and to build on our competence levels.

Here are some highlights:

- Make station improvements at our EOCs needed for Packet etc.
- Deploy donated Scott & White computers to Packet Cavalry
- Regular and thorough training on Packet system across team
- Deploy additional Winlink Telpac (server) nodes
- Integrate HF PACTOR capability into our Winlink system
- Support new ARCHES deployment at Taylor and Georgetown Hospitals
- More exercise and training for our HF Cavalry

We have decided to push ourselves beyond this year's functional SET to a more thorough test of our capabilities. This is going to require a concerted training effort to get ready for that – the leadership team is working on ways to do that while, hopefully, having fun along the way.

See ARES Report - Page 4

ARES Report ...continued from page 3.

I want to thank Jim, NQ5L for taking on the Winlink team leadership position. We have a great deal to do to really train ourselves on the system. One of our conclusions last year was that our systems really require Windows XP or 2000 to run this software reliably.

A number of members have stepped forward to create reliable systems based on modern computers but most of our efforts last year were on older systems that just are not up to the job. Fortunately, a number of physically small but good systems were donated to our cause by the Scott & White Company.

Thanks to the Red Cross, we have some small monitors for these systems. ARES is funding Windows XP licenses for these and we are also licensing the TNC interface software at about \$70 per system. Bill Goff, W5HT has taken on the job of building up these systems for us and has delivered first one to Galen Helmkamp this week.

We are making these systems available to ARES members who commit to providing TNCs / radios and to participating in drills and exercises with them. We have a short waiting list – please get with Jim or I if you want to participate in the Packet Cavalry or want to learn more about what is involved.

A reminder: The ARES meeting is the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock fire station now at 7:00 PM. Virgil Buell, KD5KQV will be leading the training for this and next month's meetings. This month's training will be message passing and will help prepare us for his famous "Plate exercise" in February. These should be great fun and super training for us – thanks, Virgil.

Make a note of Skywarn training coming up February 26 8AM to 3PM at the UT Pickle Research Campus Commons

And please participate in our Sunday evening nets at 8PM on 145.130 MHz, minus offset, no tone. Alternate repeater is the WCARC repeater on 146.640 MHz, minus offset, 162.2 tone.

Tom Whiteside (N5TW)
ARES Emergency Coordinator for Williamson County

Trivia Question Answer

In 1610, shortly after viewing the sun with his new telescope, Galileo Galilei made the first European observations of Sunspots. Daily observations were started at the Zurich Observatory in 1749 and with the addition of other observatories continuous observations were obtained starting in 1849.

<http://science.nasa.gov/ssl/pad/solar/sunspots.htm>

February Events ...continued from page 1.

WCARC Swapfest continued...

FREE ADMISSION - \$1 Raffle Tickets.

Seller/Vendor setup at 10:00 AM - Opens to the public at 12:00 Noon.

Talk-in on the 146.64 (162.2 tone should be turned off) WCARC N5TT repeater. Backup talk-in will be the 145.130 (no tone) Walburg repeater.

Table/Space Info:

- \$8.00, no electricity \$10.00, with electricity (limited)
- 65-70 tables available to Dealers and Hams
- Sellers may start setup at 10:00 AM
- Unclaimed tables will be re-assigned at 12:00 Noon.

To reserve a table:

- Call/email Rick W5RHT w5rht@arri.net.
Phone 512-863-2428
- You may pay at the door - please RSVP!

Lunch/Snacks available, courtesy of the Lion's Club.

Feb 10th - WC-ARES Meeting

7PM
Round Rock Central Fire Station
203 Commerce Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78664

Feb 17th – 20th - BASIC DISASTER TRAINING

The Red Cross is offering a quality, affordable, training experience in a concentrated time frame.

Training Location:

American Red Cross of Central Texas
Chapter Headquarters
2218 Pershing Dr
Austin, TX 78723

Registration Fees: \$5.00 per person/per day. Includes continental breakfast and break refreshments

Registration Deadline: Monday, February 14th.

For more information, contact:

American Red Cross of Central Texas
Customer Service Representative
(512) 929-1294

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February Events ...continued from page 4.

Feb 19 Smithville Swapfest

Riverbend Park, Smithville, TX 8AM-?
Talk-in: 443.750, 145.350 pl 114.8
Contact: Lynn K5LYN 512-360-4809
www.bastrophams.org

Feb 26 SkyWarn Advanced Spotter Training

8AM-3PM -NOTE PLACE CHANGE!
UT Pickle Research Campus Commons
Big Tex Auditorium (Burnet Rd)
Lunch -not- provided on site but lots of nearby eateries
Contact: Jeff N5SSI chase-1@austin.rr.com

February Contest Calendar

Vermont QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 5 to 2400Z, Feb 6
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB 0001Z, Feb 5 to 2359Z, Feb 6
YL-ISSB QSO Party 1100Z, Feb 5 to 1700Z, Feb 6
Minnesota QSO Party 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 5
YLRL YL-OM Contest, CW 1400Z, Feb 5 to 0200Z, Feb 7
AGCW Straight Key Party 1600Z-1900Z, Feb 5
Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, Feb 5 to 0500Z, Feb 6 and 1300Z, Feb 6 to 0100Z, Feb 7
Mexico RTTY International Contest 1800Z, Feb 5 to 1759Z, Feb 6
North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 6
ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint 2000Z-2400Z, Feb 6 to 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 7
ARS Spartan Sprint 0200Z-0400Z, Feb 8
KCJ Topband Contest 1200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 12 to 2359Z, Feb 13
SARL Kid's Day 0700Z-0900Z, Feb 12
SARL Field Day Contest 1000Z, Feb 12 to 1000Z, Feb 13
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW 1100Z-1300Z, Feb 12
Dutch PACC Contest 1200Z, Feb 12 to 1200Z, Feb 13
YLRL YL-OM Contest, SSB 1400Z, Feb 12 to 0200Z, Feb 14
Louisiana QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 12 to 0300Z, Feb 13
OMISS QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 12 to 1500Z, Feb 13
FISTS Winter Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, Feb 12
British Columbia QSO Challenge 1800Z, Feb 12 to 1800Z, Feb 13
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW 2100Z, Feb 12 to 0100Z, Feb 13
North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 13
ARRL School Club Roundup 1300Z, Feb 14 to 0100Z, Feb 19
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening 1900Z-2030Z, Feb 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 16
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20
CQC Winter QSO Party 2200Z, Feb 20 to 0359Z, Feb 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 24
Russian PSK WW Contest 2100Z, Feb 25 to 2100Z, Feb 26
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 26 to 2359Z, Feb 27
REF Contest, SSB 0600Z, Feb 26 to 1800Z, Feb 27
UBA DX Contest, CW 1300Z, Feb 26 to 1300Z, Feb 27
Mississippi QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 26 to 0300Z, Feb 27
CZEBRIS Contest 1600Z, Feb 26 to 2400Z, Feb 27
North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27
High Speed Club CW Contest 0900Z-1100Z, Feb 27 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 27
North Carolina QSO Party 1700Z, Feb 27 to 0300Z, Feb 28

From <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

WCARC – Owned Equipment List

Who Has What – and Since When

Tower Work

Gin Pole – John Benedict, KE5RS – 8/30/2003
Tower Step – Jeff Schmidt, N5MNV – 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 Larson, KC5RPF – 7/4/2003
Push-Up Masts (2) – Virgil Buell, KD5KQV – 7/4/2003

Power Supply

20 Amp 12VDC Supply – Tom Whiteside, N5TW – 7/14/2004

Miscellaneous

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

Pending Sale

Commercial Grade Antenna – Bob Helms, AF5Z

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