



# WCARC News

August 2005

www.wcarc.com

## Hams & Katrina

Amateur radio is providing essential communications links into the Hurricane Katrina disaster area once again, as it has so many times in the past.

Currently, the main links are the HF networks of the ARES, Red Cross and others.

The usual VHF-UHF repeater infrastructure has pretty much failed due to power outages and loss of towers. HF is once again riding to the rescue to save the day as FEMA, EOC's, Dept of Emergency Managements and many others turn to the ham's keeping the lines of communication open via the various nets.

With the relief and recovery efforts likely to take months, there will be the need for volunteers to run communications for some time. Watch the email lists for information on how to volunteer and help. (See page 3 for information on how to volunteer)

### AMATEUR HIGH-FREQUENCY GULF COAST HURRICANE NETS

- 03845.0 LSB Gulf Coast West Hurricane
- 03862.5 LSB Mississippi Section Traffic
- 03873.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
- 03873.0 LSB Louisiana ARES Emergency (night)
- 03873.0 LSB Texas ARES Emergency (night)
- 03873.0 LSB Mississippi ARES Emergency
- 03910.0 LSB Mississippi ARES
- 03910.0 LSB Louisiana Traffic
- 03923.0 LSB Mississippi ARES
- 03925.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
- 03925.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency (alt)
- 03935.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
- 03935.0 LSB Louisiana ARES (health & welfare)
- 03935.0 LSB Texas ARES (health & welfare)
- 03935.0 LSB Mississippi ARES (health & welfare)
- 03935.0 LSB Alabama Emergency

.....continued page 2

## Join Us For Breakfast

WCARC Breakfast - Saturdays at 6:45AM  
Monument Café  
1953 S. Austin Avenue  
Georgetown Texas 78627

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Presidents QRM
- 3** ARES Report
- 3** Katrina Ham Volunteers
- 3** FCC "Drop the code" Proposal
- 4** Lockhart ARES Operation

## WARC Meeting Minutes

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club  
August 4, 2005

Vice-President, Dick Foster, W5TA called the Aug. meeting of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club to order. We had 1 visitor, Barry N4QW at this meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were not available and not posted on the WCARC web site.

### Treasurers report given by Jon Boles:

Beginning balance	\$2,604.75
Receipts/Deposits	\$62.60
Expenditures	\$62.55
Ending Balance	\$2,604.80
ARES Funds Available	\$106.71
WCARC Funds Available	\$2,604.80

Treasures report was accepted.

### ARES Report and Repeater Report:

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, told us about the WinLink station that he has up and running and about the programs that will be given at the Austin Summerfest.

Additional speakers will include...

- K4VUD, Charlie Harpole on his DX-pedition.
- K9DX, John Battin on the largest 160-meter antenna array.

### Old Business:

Georgetown Swapfest – Rick Trommer, W5RHT  
Rick is still looking for a location to hold next year's event and will keep the club informed as to this effort.

### New Business:

Jon Boles (K5AEM) will check on the dates that we can schedule our Fall Picnic at he park. .

Jim Russell (N45L) will bring refreshments to next months meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Program by Jon, K5AEM, was building a bench for your shack.

Minutes submitted by Rick Trommer, W5RHT.

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# ARES REPORT

.....Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Thanks to all that attended this month's ARES meeting – we had a great turnout for our "Introduction to Williamson County ARES" program. Hopefully it was a useful grounding in what and how we do things for both newbies and regulars. It is always good to drop back to fundamentals for a new look at things. Also, hopefully, it left folks with a source of pride for all the infrastructure that has been built up over the years.

## Annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Due to a conflict, this year's Simulated Emergency Training (SET) moved to November 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's exercise will link in with the section SET and hopefully the surrounding counties as well. A reminder that we still need more Packet Cavalry stations going for that exercise – remember that we have a goal of 16 of these stations by year end – with 16 stations, we will be lucky to deploy 8 stations in a real emergency!

## Summerfest

Summerfest was August 8<sup>th</sup>. Jerry Reimer (KK5CA) the STX Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) conducted the ARES session at 10AM. I had the honor of saying a few words about Winlink. Our local efforts are a real show case and it was great to get to show them off a bit.

## WC-ARES Plan update:

With all the changes with the addition of Winlink and new repeaters with new capabilities and corresponding changes in tactics, I am working on an update to our plan document. There will be enough changes that I am sure several iterations will be necessary but the new plan will be unveiled at the next ARES meeting. We will also have a discussion on deploying in an emergency in semi-table top fashion. This should be good training for all of us as well as preparation for the upcoming SET.

## Lockhart Communications deployment

As I am writing this, preparations are underway to deploy a team to Caldwell county the Monday before the WCARC meeting to provide emergency communications for them during a planned maintenance outage. This should be a great training opportunity and I am immensely proud and pleased with the terrific response from the WC-ARES team in covering this. We have 13 volunteers signed up and ready to go. We may get a chance to sneak in some information to the newsletter after this is over.

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## **Williamson County Amateur Radio Club**

PO Box 1644  
Georgetown, TX 78627

Club Repeater: 146.640 -600 kHz Tone: 162.2 Hz

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# President's QRM

... Mark, NA6M

Howdy folks,

What a hurricane season 2005 is turning out to be. As I write this, Hurricane Katrina is drawing a bead on New Orleans. This category 5 monster can only mean bad news and the season won't even peak until mid September.

Weather events are certainly good training for emergency communicators, even if they are not in our local area. A number of nets are in operation around the country for such events and many utilize voice over IP or VOIP technology to link participants. VOIP technology has worked very well for connecting people and systems but it is not completely flawless. Good emergency training does need to include good resource management and internet bandwidth is a valuable resource.

Most of you know that I tossed my hat into the ring for a board of directors eat at the Texas VHF-FM Society table for the 2006-2007 term. Following the election on August 6th at Summerfest, I became the Secretary for the organization. There are a lot of controversial issues before the Society that I feel I can help resolve and have committed to the amateur community to give it my best shot. As a result of my focus on Society issues and needs, I will not be able to seek reelection in 2006 as president of the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club since there is no way possible for me to be able to adequately perform both jobs efficiently. As we undergo the process of appointing the 2006 election committee, please give some thought to filling the position and make your recommendations known.

I was at the Monument breakfast a couple of weeks ago and Rick, W5RHT mentioned that he was sorry if I was mad at him. While I was puzzled, I assured him I wasn't. He explained that while I was tied up in the Society meeting, I had won an Icom handheld radio from the prize drawing. Since I needed to be present to win, the prize was redrawn. Being present in the meeting didn't count. You can't have your meeting and handheld too.

73,

Mark

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**WC-ARES NET... Sunday's  
8 p.m. on 146.640, PL 162.2**

## 2005 Officers and Committees

**President** -Mark Stennett, NA6M

**Vice President** - Dick Foster, W5TA

**Guest Speaker Committee**

Vice President - Dick Foster, W5TA, Chairman

Tom Whiteside, Bob Redoutey, N5KF

**Secretary** - Greg Worthington, AG5W

**Treasurer** - Jon Boles K5AEM

**Public Information Officer** - Virgil G. Buell, KD5KQV

**Newsletter Editor** - Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

**Emergency Coordinator** - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

**Webmaster** - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

# ARES REPORT

## N5TW Winlink node:

No usage report this month – we switched over to a new system that will ultimately improve redundancy in the system and this new system does not yet have usage statistics on-line. During the switchover, the main Internet connection to Winlink was down for about 4 hours and the node went into “hubbing” mode delivering local traffic as normal. We took advantage of this first outage in a year to do some testing of this capability across the section.

I have been asking for additional folks to develop PACTOR HF capability that can also help us in Internet outages and a few members are working on this. KE5RS has this capability and K5HTK got his setup working this week – Good job!

## Weekly Packet net reminder:

A reminder that we have instituted a weekly Winlink check-in. Total check-ins will be reported on the Sunday evening net. Winlink check-in is easy, just send a check-in note to [nq5l@winlink.org](mailto:nq5l@winlink.org) and cc: [n5tw@winlink.org](mailto:n5tw@winlink.org) and tell us which node you used. You can check-in at your convenience anytime during the week – Jim asks that notes be posted before noon Sunday. We are encouraging folks to vary the node they use weekly to help exercise all the gear and keep you in practice – multiple check-ins via the different nodes are welcome.

The current nodes are:

KI5DR-5 145.73 (via ausrly-1)  
NA6M-10 144.91  
N5TW-12 145.03  
N5TW-10 145.61

## In conclusion

Remember that the ARES meeting is the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock fire station now at 7PM. You don't want to miss it!

And please participate in our Sunday evening nets at 8PM. These are still on 146.64 (PL 162.2) while the 145.13 repeater is under the weather.

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## Ham Volunteers...

### **Hurricane Katrina Volunteer Signup Database Now Open (Aug 31, 2005) –**

The Hurricane Katrina Disaster Communications Volunteer Registration & Message Traffic Database (<http://katrina.ab2m.net>) now is open. Site Administrator Joe Tomasone, AB2M, set up the database, and South Texas ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, is handling volunteer coordination. This site is intended for Amateur Radio volunteers to sign up for communication support duty on behalf of Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi.

## **WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OWNED EQUIPMENT**

Reviewed at 5 August 2005 WCARC Meeting

### Tower Work

- 1 Gin Pole - KE5RS, John Benedict - 30-Aug-03
- 1 Tower Step - N5NMW, Jeff Schmidt - 7-Aug-03

### Antenna measurement

- 1 MFJ Antenna Analyzer - KI5YG, Steve Cowell - 3-Feb-05
- 1 MFJ Grid Dip Adapter - K5KVN, Stuart Rohre - 3-Feb-05

### Antennas

- 1 Butternut HF Vertical 10M-80M - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05
- 1 Cushcraft 6-ele 440MHz Beam - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05
- 1 Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical - W5TA, Dick Foster - 3-Feb-05
- 1 Hygain triband antenna - W5TA, Dick Foster - 3-Feb-05
- 1 Mosley Triband Ant - K5AEM, Jon Boles - 3-Feb-05

### Masts

- 2 Push Up Masts - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05
- 1 Push Up Masts - KC5RPF, Ken Larsen - 3-Feb-05
- 2 Push Up Masts - KD5KQV, Virgil Buell - 4-Jul-03

### Power Supplies

- 1 20 Amp Power Supply - N5TW, Tom Whiteside - 14-Jul-04

### Miscellaneous

- 2 Heavy Duty Power Cords - K5HTK, Jim Hester - 3-Feb-05

### Pending sale

- 1 DB Commercial Ant VHF 158MHz - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 6-Feb-05

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## **WA7BNM April Contest Calendar**

Please see: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

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## **FCC Proposes to drop Morse Code Requirement**

**Comment deadlines set in FCC "Morse code" proceeding (Aug 31, 2005)** -- The deadline to submit comments on the FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O)* in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, is October 31.

Reply comments are due November 14. The *NPRM&O*, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes, turned away several other petition requests, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class. Comment deadlines are established by the *NPRM & O's publication* in the *Federal Register*, which occurred August 31.

To file on-line comments on the FCC *NPRM&O* in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). Interested parties also may submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. People with disabilities may contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc) by e-mail [FCC504@fcc.gov](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov) or telephone 202-418-0530 or TTY 202-418-0432.

For additional information, contact [William T. Cross](#), Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 202-418-0680; TTY 202-418-7233. Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), via e-mail request [FCC504@fcc.gov](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov) or by calling the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau: 202-418-0530, TTY 202-418-0432. An FCC *Report and Order* in this proceeding is not likely until late 2005 or early 2006.

## Katrina Efforts.....

03967.0 LSB Gulf Coast (outgoing traffic)  
03975.0 LSB Texas RACES  
03993.5 LSB Gulf Coast (health & welfare)  
03995.0 LSB Gulf Coast Wx

07225.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane  
07235.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency  
07235.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane  
07235.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency  
07240.0 LSB American Red Cross US Gulf Coast Disaster  
07240.0 LSB Texas Emergency  
07243.0 LSB Alabama Emergency  
07245.0 LSB Southern Louisiana  
07248.0 LSB Texas RACES  
07250.0 LSB Texas Emergency  
07260.0 LSB Gulf Coast West Hurricane  
07264.0 LSB Gulf Coast (health & welfare)  
07265.0 LSB Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio (SATERN) (alt)  
07273.0 LSB Texas ARES (alt)  
07280.0 LSB NTS Region 5  
07280.0 LSB Louisiana Emergency (alt)  
07283.0 LSB Gulf Coast (outgoing only)  
07285.0 LSB West Gulf ARES Emergency (day)  
07285.0 LSB Louisiana ARES Emergency (day)  
07285.0 LSB Mississippi ARES Emergency  
07285.0 LSB Texas ARES Emergency (day)  
07290.0 LSB Central Gulf Coast Hurricane  
07290.0 LSB Gulf Coast Wx  
07290.0 LSB Texas ARES (health & welfare)  
07290.0 LSB Louisiana ARES (health & welfare) (day)  
07290.0 LSB Texas ARES (health & welfare)  
07290.0 LSB Mississippi ARES (health & welfare)

14265.0 USB Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio (SATERN)  
(health & welfare)  
14300.0 USB Intercontinental Traffic  
14300.0 USB Maritime Mobile Service  
14303.0 USB International Assistance & Traffic  
14313.0 USB Intercontinental Traffic (alt)  
14313.0 USB Maritime Mobile Service (alt)  
14316.0 USB Health & Welfare  
14320.0 USB Health & Welfare  
14325.0 USB Hurricane Watch (Amateur-to-NHC)  
14340.0 USB Louisiana (1900)

You may also check out  
<http://www.gulfcoastnews.com>

### **Hurricane Katrina HF Response and Recovery Frequencies Non-Amateur Radio Frequencies...**

02802.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-91) \*\*  
03171.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-92) \*\*  
05136.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-93) \*\*  
05141.4 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-94) \*\*  
05211.0 USB FEMA  
05236.0 USB SHARES Coordination Network  
(nationwide HF voice coordination)  
06859.5 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-95) \*\*  
07507.0 USB USN/USCG hurricane net (pri)  
07550.5 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-96 - primary) \*\*  
07698.5 USB American Red Cross Disaster (F-97) \*\*  
09380.0 USB USN/USCG hurricane net (sec)  
10493.0 USB FEMA  
14396.5 USB SHARES Coordination Network  
(nationwide HF voice coordination)

\*\* Type-accepted equipment and an issued US FCC license  
are required to transmit on Red Cross frequencies

# Lockhart ARES Op's

As I mentioned in the regular ARES report, we were requested to provide communications assistance in Caldwell County during a planned outage this Monday. It has been a long day but this report is being filed right after our return. Emergency services is in the process of switching buildings for their emergency communications to a much more hardened facility but was faced with the dispatch outage that comes with this. When we were first asked to help, it was going to involve all their communications facilities and meant covering Police and fire - a very big job but they worked out a plan to first migrate VHF with our help and then to migrate the 800 MHz system later with the VHF system being used as a backup. Since their Fire services only have VHF, that is where we came in.

The original request was to cover 10 fire stations but this was whittled back to only 4 so we had this problem really surrounded with lots of operators. Since it was possible that something would get broken in the 800 MHz system, we prepared for that eventuality.

The deployment was flawless and the Williamson County group really jumped in and carried the event. Of the 18 operators that participated, 2 were from Caldwell County, 2 were from Travis, 1 from Burnet County and 13 were from Williamson. The WC-ARES participants were (in alphabetical order):

K5AEM  
K5HTK  
K5RIK  
KB7UQD  
KC5LGS  
KD4HNX  
KD5RAI  
KD5WML  
N5EXY  
N5TW  
NQ5L  
W5MEG  
W5TSN  
WA0YVQ



Jeff N5SSI from Travis organized the event and was net control. Aaron KD5MBP (EC of Caldwell County) is also the county communications coordinator so he was focused on making the changeover happen while Jeff managed the effort.

We all showed up by 8AM out there and were on assigned stations by around 8:45AM. Around 12:30, communications were restored and we were released. We were all grateful that it was uneventful.

This was a great exercise in deployment. While out there, we were able to connect back to the N5TW-12 PMBO node which had been moved to 145.73 to take advantage of digipeater facilities - that is a long haul! NQ5L was not successful from his location and this gave us more ammunition to lobby the ECs in the area to get some Telpac nodes going.

My favorite part of the event was converging on Chisholm Trail BBQ in Lockhart for some FB BBQ! Many thanks for the terrific job from the team in volunteering, deploying and executing - it made me swell with pride to watch it - Great job! .....Tom, N5TW

## **Winlink Telpac Server page:**

[http://www.wc-ares.org/telpac\\_pmbo\\_freqs.html](http://www.wc-ares.org/telpac_pmbo_freqs.html)

**Newsletter Deadline for Articles and Submissions  
is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the Month prior to the month of  
publication**