



WCARC News

November / December 2005

www.wcarc.com

ARES Report

This was another busy month with the highlight being our annual SET which was held on November 5th with a valuable SET lessons learned dedicated ARES meeting on the 10th. We also participated in the Travis County ARES ARCHES Set on November 22nd. I had the privilege to represent our Rita effort in Jasper at an ARES forum at the STARC ham convention in Corpus Christi on November 12th.

Annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

I really appreciate our partnership this year with N5SSI and his teams from the Texas Severe Storm Intercept and the Lone Star Storm Spotters Network. These folks worked many hours to come up with a realistic severe weather script that our SET was synchronized with. We also participated with the Highland Lakes ARES group. We activated the County, Georgetown, Round Rock and Cedar Park EOCs along with the Georgetown Healthcare System and the Sun City Fire Station. Thanks to the 40 stations that participated not including the Highland Lakes count. Here is the summarized write up I included in our submission to the ARRL:

This was a really good exercise for us. I think we were possibly the first group to use Winlink last year after the ARRL board announcement last summer. We had spent most of our energy just getting a couple of nodes up and 8 portable stations and decided to do a functional SET with a limited scope. We did manage to send around 100 messages last year.

That early Winlink beginning as grown to a Winlink PMBO with HF capabilities as well as 7 local Telpac Winlink nodes. And our "Packet Cavalry" of portable responders has grown to 23 stations including 5 portable with HF PACTOR capability with 3 of these having full PACTOR III setups

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Join Us For Breakfast

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

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WARC Meeting Minutes

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club
November 3, 2005

The WCARC meeting was called to order by President Mark Stennett, NA6M. There were 39 members and visitors who signed the attendance sheet.

The minutes were approved as posted in the WCARC Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Jon Boles, K5AEM

October, 2005

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,562.66
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 115.00
Expenditures	\$ 542.24
Ending Balance	\$ 2,135.42
ARES Funds Available	(\$ 127.09)
WCARC Funds Available	\$ 2,135.42

ARES Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Reference the WCARES Report.

Repeater Report – Tom Whiteside, N5TW

The repeater is working.

DX Report – John Warren, NT5C

The CQWW SSB contest was just over, and it was good for DXers as well as contesters. By a show of hands, about 30% of the club members present in the meeting worked at least some of the contest. Larry Hammel, K5OT, worked the contest as part of the 6Y2Z team. It's not unusual to work 100 countries during such a contest. 40 meter long path was good for both mornings of the contest.

Chris, KE5FNX, who is a sophomore at McNeil High School spent some time at John's QTH during the contest. He was a bit microphone shy, but after some coaching from John, he worked P40W. The rapid contest response was a bit overwhelming at first, and both John and Chris had fun in the contest.

Old Business

Officer Nomination Committee – Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

Dallas had the following nominations for WCARC club officers:

President: Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, and possibly Kees Talen, K5BCQ.

Vice-President – Open

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ARES Report

Also since last year, we have built up fully capable fixed Winlink capabilities with good outside antennas at 2 of our 4 EOCs. (Plans for the other two await action from those agencies.)

So this year, we decided to really go for it. We partnered with a local storm intercept team who are also ARES members to create a very detailed script of weather events that took place over a period of 3 hours and tracked 3 tornadoes through the area. Since we had done 2 full scale callups in recent months, we did a limited practice callup drill at the previous month's ARES meeting and "dispatched" these teams on paper to the EOCs. This allowed us to compress the callup portion of the SET and to spread around our new members in a deliberate fashion. We activated 4 EOCs and a local hospital that also simulated traffic directed at other area hospitals. We stationed a team also at an additional fire station that was used to simulate other agencies that were not involved. We also partnered with the ARES group in Burnet and Llano counties who put a team at a local hospital just to the West of us with voice and Winlink capability.

The event went very well. We have pages of items identified as lessons learned to go work on but the group responded very well to a scenario designed to totally overload them. Our Winlink tactics were much more mature this year - we have a whole new list of things needed to take these tactics to a higher level but I was very pleased and we passed almost 100 messages that I had created. (The total was probably 30% higher with message responses but these were not included in my count.)

It was a lot of work creating all the scripts and messages but it was worth every bit of it to see it in action. We all enjoyed a good, Texas BBQ here afterwards with many lessons learned ideas recorded.

ARCHES SET

Travis County ARES did their annual SET as an ARCHES SET on November 22nd. WC-ARES participated by activating the Round Rock Medical Center, the Georgetown Healthcare System, the Round Rock EOC and the Cedar Park EOC. We provided 4 of the 18 hospitals or other participating facilities. Hams participating from WC-ARES:

Round Rock EOC:	Dan KB5TWO, Galen WA0YVQ and Charlie N5EXY
Cedar Park EOC:	Tom W2MN
Round Rock Medical Center:	John KE5RS and Dallas KD4HNX
Georgetown Healthcare System:	Darrin KE5CQL, Keith KE5FYG, Dick KE5AGG and Tom N5TW

For this SET, they used a centrally controlled polling system using Airmail to check each of the 18 participating areas for mail and to send them mail. Airmail allows for point to point connections without needing the Internet and this was the first experience with Airmail for many of us. The process was rather slow and only netted one received and one sent file from the stations that were able to get it to work in this 3 hour exercise. Good practice but contrast this with the 100 plus messages and replies we did in the SET without straining our system! And this polling scheme puts a bottleneck at the central station doing the polling.

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WARC Meeting Minutes

Secretary – Open
Treasurer – Jon Boles, K5AEM, agreed to stay on for one more term

New Business

Newsletter – Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

Paul had been dating the newsletter with the month of the previous meeting even though the newsletter was actually published the following month. Starting in December, Paul will date the newsletter with the month of publication. The next newsletter may be November/December for a transition.

2006 WCARC Swapfest – Rick Trommer, W5RHT

The 2006 WCARC Swapfest will be on a new date and at a new location. The usual facility used by the club for many years is undergoing restoration and is not available. The swapfest date which is usually on Superbowl Sunday, will be the week after Superbowl Sunday on February 12.

The new location will be the Showbarn, and it is relatively close to our normal location. There are no tables available at this location so the 2006 event will be tailgating only. The only tables will be those provided by the sellers. The Showbarn has kitchen facilities and therefore food will be provided as in past years. There is a conference room attached, and the current plan will be to have a VE test session as in years past.

Rick has already put down a \$100.00 deposit, and the full cost will be \$200.00.

There should be a flyer as part of this month's newsletter with more detail on the event.

December Refreshments

Mark Stennett, NA6M, agreed to provide refreshments for the December meeting.

WCARC Program

The program for November was by Don Inbody, AD0K. Don provided an in-depth view of DXLog which is a collection of software for logging and QSL management that is a free download from the web.

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

WA7BNM April Contest Calendar

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

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

ARES Report

Still, we will make sure we have Airmail at each EOC just in case we lose the Internet at all Telpac locations and also lose the PMBO that would normally be able to locally hub messages without the Internet.

Infrastructure improvements:

The generator manual switch-over panel at N5TW was installed this month. This greatly extends the time the PMBO and other gear can remain on-line in after a power outage.

Weekly Packet net reminder:

A reminder that we have instituted a weekly Winlink check-in. Total check-ins are reported on the Sunday evening net. Winlink check-in is easy, just send a check-in note to nq5l@winlink.org and cc: 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
KD4HNX-10	145.01 (Georgetown Healthcare System)
W5LHC-10	145.01 (Cedar Park PD)
KB5TWO-10	145.01 (Round Rock Fire Station #6)

Monthly meeting

The ARES meeting is the second Thursday of the month at the NEW Round Rock EOC at fire station #6 at 7PM. Fire station #6 is just west of the Dell Diamond off Highway 79. Go to the Dell Diamond and do a U-turn at the turn-around. Take the first right onto Joe DiMaggio Drive. The fire station will be your first left turn. The program will be a panel discussion from the folks that participated in the recent Jasper relief effort. This should be both interesting and great training for future events.

In conclusion

Hope to see lots of folks at the meeting. 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.

Tom Whiteside (N5TW)

ARES Emergency Coordinator for Williamson County

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

QRM.....

Howdy folks,

It is that time of year again and with it comes the good and the bad. Just the other day I was asked by one of my radio engineer friends to check out a great deal he found on the internet for some HP Spectrum Analyzers. The seller had 5 of them and was letting them go for less than a third of the going rate. My friend was leery of the deal yet he was drawn to it.

The seller had stated that he was only able to accept Western Union money transfers and yes, he listed a stateside address. I cautioned my friend about the hazards of paying for things with Western Union which he noted and passed along to the seller. Amazingly, the seller came up with a great idea.

He would conduct the transaction through an escrow service he called Square Trade. Before my friend could even reply, he received an email allegedly from Square Trade asking him to sign up in order to complete the deal. That email explained that the seller would not be given the details of the Western Union transfer until he, the buyer, had received and accepted the equipment.

As I was given these new details, I asked my friend for the full email headers from the seller. Upon examination it turned out that the seller had registered a domain name that had Square Trade in it but it was obviously not them. The email headers revealed that all of the email had originated from the same AOL IP address and this was indeed, a scam.

You can't be too careful. If it is too good to be true it probably means trouble for someone.

Happy Holidays,

Mark, NA6M

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

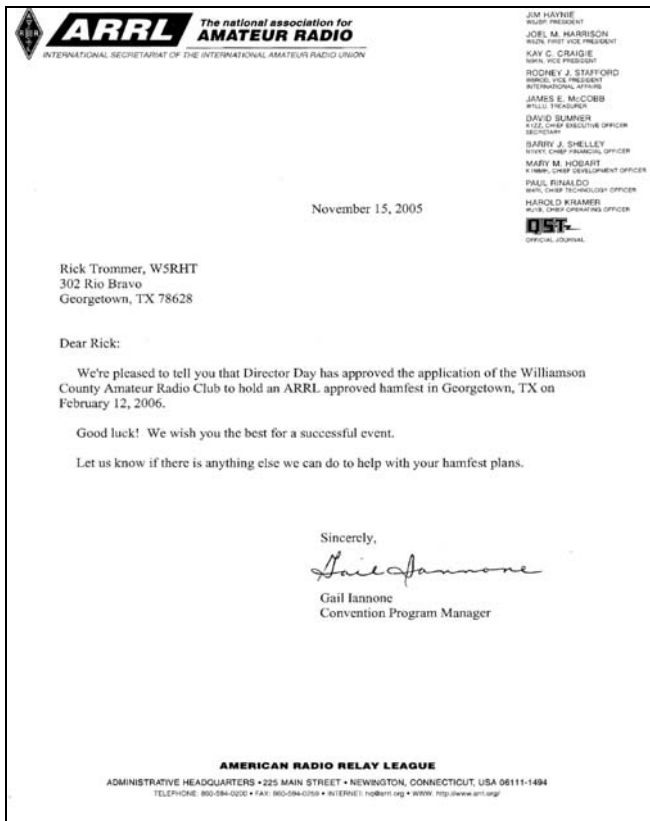
- 2 Heavy Duty Power Cords - K5HTK, Jim Hester - 3-Feb-05

Pending sale

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

ARRL Approves WCARC Hamfest!

Received in the Mail.....



-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Saunders [mailto:kj7bs@cox.net]

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2005 10:08 AM

To: na6m@hotmail.com; w5ta@austin.rr.com; ag5w@aol.com

Subject: Not An Ordinary Contact With WC5T

On October 30, 2005 at 2256 UTC, I heard CQ C2C DE WC5T nice and strong on 14.058 MHz and answered the CQ. Dick responded to me and we exchanged contest information, RST, name, QTH, and FISTS number. I copied 599 DICK TX 8000 and so it went into the logbook.

So why was this contact special enough for me to write the club newsletter editor? I have been earning my FISTS Century Award for three months. This award is given to any FISTS member who accumulates 100 points by making contacts with other FISTS members and exchanging membership numbers. Domestic contacts are 1 point, DX contacts are 2 points, and FISTS affiliated clubs are 3 points.

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club is an affiliated FISTS club and this contact was my 100th point for the FISTS Century Award.

Let me thank the club member operating WC5T during the FISTS Coast-To-Coast club contest. The operator's name is Dick. Before signing with WC5T, I told Dick this was the 100th point I needed for the award and thanked him.

My QSL card is on the way.

Mark Saunders, KJ7BS
Glendale, AZ
FISTS # 2972

The ARRL has approved the WCARC Hamfest as an ARRL sanctioned hamfest. The event will occur on Feb 12, 2006 in Georgetown, TX.

Many volunteers will be needed. Stay tuned for more details.

WCARC Repeater: 146.640 MHz, 162.2 PL

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 Redouty, N5KF

Secretary - Greg Worthington, AG5W

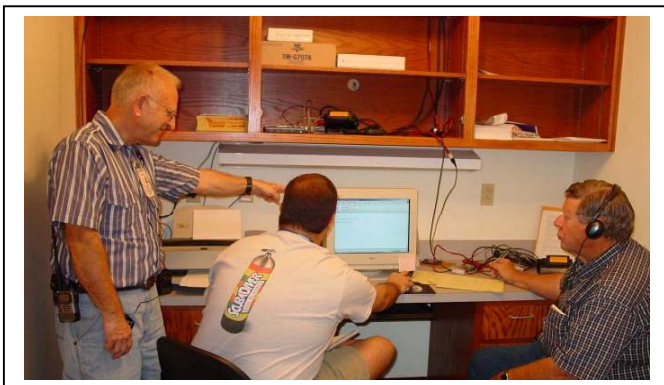
Treasurer - Jon Boles K5AEM

Pubic Information Officer - Virgil G. Buell, KD5KQV

Newsletter Editor - Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

Emergency Coordinator - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Webmaster - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX



(above) Round Rock EOC Radio Room