



WCARC NEWS

March 2006

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

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WCARC Officers

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VP - Bob Thompson, W5VGJ
, Chairman
Tom Whiteside, N5TW
Bob Redoutey, N5KF

Emergency Coordinator
Jim Russell, NQ5L

February Meeting Minutes

WCARC Vice-President Bob Thomson W5VGJ called the meeting to order and the January meeting minutes, contained in the newsletter, were approved. Afterwards, two visitors were recognized: Ken KE8MA, formerly of California, has relocated to Sun City, and Dick WX6E, of Georgetown These were among the 41 who signed the meeting roster.

Treasurer's Report

Galen, WA0YVQ presented the treasurer's report for Jon Boles, K5AEM, who was away on vacation. The treasurer's report was approved by the members.

January, 2006

Beginning Balance:	\$2,520.53
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 40.00
Expenditures:	\$ 21.04
Ending Balance:	\$2,639.49
ARES Funds Available:	\$ 300.00
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,339.49

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual		42
Family		9
Honorary		3
Total		54
Total Persons		56

WCARES - Jim Russell, NQ5L

The WCARES kick-off meeting was held in January and the group plans a lot of activities for 2006. Jim said that the group was planning expansion of Winlink and voice repeaters, and he also briefly described the involvement of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in public service. Those interested in more information, or wanting to sign up, should contact Harvey Henning, N0AJP. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in Round Rock Fire Station #6 by the Dell Diamond.

DX Report - Bob Farmer, W9BF

DX-pedition to Antarctica's Peter 1 Island should be on the air about February 7th and operate for 2 to 2-1/2 weeks. A team of 10 or

11 from around the world are expected to go on the most expensive DX-pedition ever mounted (the Heard Island trip cost \$300,000).

Old Business

WCARC Swapfest - Rick Trommer, W5NR

The 2006 WCARC Swapfest will be held Sunday, February 12th at the Show Barn in Georgetown from 9 AM to 3 PM. So far, there is one vendor, Jubilee Electronics, and 8 people are signed up to rent space. No tables to be provided- bring your own. Door prizes include ARRL books. More volunteers needed to hang signs. Food to be provided by Snappy Snacks. VE testing runs 8:30 to 11 AM (no exceptions). Electricity will be provided around the cafeteria and at the building supports.

Robert AA5SF, Round Rock, wants to clean out his house and is giving equipment to the club. Rick W5NR can pick it up but someone is needed to evaluate the equipment and determine its worth.

Following this announcement, the administration of the meeting was given to WCARC President Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW.

New Business

Jim KB7UQD announced that the Second Annual Spokes and Spurs Bicycle will be held on March 11th. WCARC members needed to ride along and handle communications. Those needed are: 8 operators for riding in side wagons, 2 for net control, and 4 more for rest stops. 8:30 to 2:30, meet 6 or 7 AM at Denny's and drive to Bertram to set up. Write to KB7UQD@arrl.net to volunteer.

Bernie KC5LGS reminded the club that SuitSat-1 is to be launched, broadcasting messages on 2 meters.

January Meeting Minutes continued...

Bernie is setting up a listening project at a Round Rock school and he is interested in whether there are others doing school program coordination.

Dallas reminded the group that a teacher in one school has radio equipment and is enthusiastic about such projects. (Information contained in a previous newsletter).

Club Picnic: The picnic coordinator/cook has retired and ideas were discussed for providing food for the picnic. Georgetown BBQ, Rudy's, Pok-E-Joe's, Smokey Moe's, Weir's Store and others were suggested. The picnic is expected to take place April 29th, with May 6th as a backup date.

Ultimately, it was decided that the club will provide the meat and drinks and members will bring sides.

2006 program ideas were proposed. These included Projects/Show and Tell, Using E-Bay, and Panel Discussions with Q & A.

Finally, an announcement was made about the STAR Flight Helicopter Landing Zone class to be held at Shoreline Christian Center on February 11th from 9 AM to 12 PM. Registration and more information can be found on the Web at www.mset-tx.org.

The February program was the use of EchoLink and IRLP, delivered by Mark Stennett, NA6M.

SuitSat Experiment Ends

From: <http://www.spacedaily.com>

by Staff Writers

Moscow, Russia (SPX) Feb 27, 2006

The SuitSat-1 experiment, called RadioSkaf - or Radio Sputnik in Russian - has been completed successfully by the International Space Station crew, Sergei Samburov, the project's deputy director, told the Russian Interfax-AVN news agency Sunday. "The last transmission from the RadioSkaf artificial satellite was received on February 18," Samburov said.

"The spacesuit, outfitted with a radio transmitter, broadcast nearly 3,500 messages to the Earth over two weeks."

On Feb. 3, Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev and U.S. astronaut Bill McArthur jettisoned an obsolete Russian Orlan M spacesuit, which was empty except for electronic equipment. The suit contained a radio transmitter that broadcast recorded messages.

The transmission, at 145.900 MHz FM, in the VHF or two-meter band of amateur radio, attracted attention from students and ham radio operators all over the world. The transmissions included suit data, mission time, suit temperature and battery voltage.

Soon after its launch by hand from the station, however, NASA reported that the transmitter had gone dead, but the spacesuit's weak signal was picked up by ham radio operators and the experiment continued as scheduled.

SuitSat-1 was sponsored by Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, an international ham radio working group. The suit's orbit is expected to continue to deteriorate, and it will re-enter Earth's atmosphere and disintegrate within a few days.



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

WCARC Repeater: 146.640 MHz, 162.2 PL

Join Us For Breakfast

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

Website Of The Month

Mike's Electric Stuff

<http://www.electricstuff.co.uk/>

A plethora of articles, pictures and information on old electronic devices.

WCARC Meetings, 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM

**Wesleyan Retirement Home
1105 S. Church St.
Georgetown, TX 78626**

ARES Report—Jim Russell, NQ5L

The 2006 year has started off with a “bang” for Williamson County ARES. We’ve had lots of participation in outlining our major goals for the year, and they are ambitious. We want to build on the momentum developed last year and expand our ability to respond to disaster needs even further. Among the things that we want to do are:

- Upgrade the Williamson County/Georgetown EOC installations
- Build out and have ready to go a portable repeater
- Build out and have ready to go a complete “go kit” station that will include HF, Pactor, VHF and Winlink capability
- Establish relations with the emergency officials in Leander and Liberty Hill
- Establish a high speed “backbone” connection to supplement the Internet in the event of a major Internet outage.
- Train and develop better voice net techniques

Have a full blown SET in the fall that uses and stresses ALL of our capabilities from email, voice, SSTV, NVIS, and GPS techniques

Right now, we are in major need of more operators to act as Sunday night net control stations. This is excellent training, and about as “real world” as it gets short of an actual deployment. If you have never tried this, then perhaps you would be more comfortable signing up for just one net to see how it goes. We are going to need several net control stations in the up coming months, and we’d like for you to be one of them. Contact Galen, WA0YVQ, for more information or to sign up. Sign up for just one time, or for a spot in the regular rotation to see how it goes. We need your help on this.

The topic for the next meeting is on the Anderson Power Pole connectors, and how to build a temporary connection. KD4HNX will be leading us in this worth while endeavor.

Jim Russell

NQ5L

Williamson County E.C.

WCARES Meetings, 2nd Thursday - 7:00 PM

**Round Rock Fire Station No. 6
2919 Joe DiMaggio Drive
Round Rock, TX 78664**

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

Swap Net

Thursday nights at 2200 local time, the 147.080 and 444.525 repeaters are carrying a swap net hosted by the 147.195 repeater in Sacramento, CA. You can participate in the net by getting on either repeater with a 100 Hz PL tone or via Echolink node NA6M-R. The net is also available via IRLP at reflector 9352.

President's QRM

Greetings,

The Georgetown Hamfest was a great success!

There were several folks upgrade their licenses or take the test for a first time license at the VEC testing and I even got to help in the testing for the first time in several years. It was great to see the action and excitement of the folks that passed their test and moved up.

The day started out a bit cold at the hamfest, but as the sun warmed the air, more and more folks arrived and the show barn filled up with tailgater's selling and buying radios, parts, and other items that were for sale.

I would like to thank Rick and all that helped with the event to make it a successful event for the club.

The picnic is coming up soon. It looks like we will be having it on April 15th due to scheduling with the Georgetown Parks Dept. Plans are for the club to provide the meat and a pot luck for the side dishes and deserts. The picnic will be held in our usual spot.

Severe weather season is right around the corner and everyone should be checking out their radios, batts and jump kits. I am sure the ARES folks will be holding training at their meetings on these topics and it will be time well spent to attend them and be up to date and ready to go.

Hope all is well with everyone and see all at the meeting.

In Service,

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

In Other News...

WA7BNM Contest Calendar—March, 2006

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB—0000Z, Mar 4 to 2400Z, Mar 5

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint—0400Z-0429Z, Mar 4
0430Z-0459Z, Mar 4
0500Z-0529Z, Mar 4
0530Z-0600Z, Mar 4

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship—2200Z-2359Z, Mar 4 (Low Band), 0000Z-0159Z, Mar 5 (Low Band)
0800Z-1159Z, Mar 5 (High Band)

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest—1100Z-1700Z, Mar 5

ARS Spartan Sprint—0200Z-0400Z, Mar 7

AGCW YL-CW Party—1900Z-2100Z, Mar 7

RSGB Commonwealth Contest—1000Z, Mar 11 to 1000Z, Mar 12

Idaho QSO Party—1300Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12
1300Z, Mar 12 to 0100Z, Mar 13

AGCW QRP Contest—1400Z-2000Z, Mar 11

Oklahoma QSO Party—1400Z, Mar 11 to 0200Z, Mar 12
1400Z-2000Z, Mar 12

North American Sprint, RTTY—0000Z-0400Z, Mar 12

UBA Spring Contest, CW—0700Z-1100Z, Mar 12

NSARA Contest—1200Z-1600Z, Mar 12
1800Z-2200Z, Mar 12

Wisconsin QSO Party—1800Z, Mar 12 to 0100Z, Mar 13

SARL VHF/UHF Contest—1600Z, Mar 17 to 1600Z, Mar 18, 1600Z, Mar 18 to 1000Z, Mar 19

10-10 Int. Mobile Contest—0001Z-2359Z, Mar 18

BARTG Spring RTTY Contest—0200Z, Mar 18 to 0200Z, Mar 20

Russian DX Contest—1200Z, Mar 18 to 1200Z, Mar 19

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest—1600Z-1900Z, Mar 18 (144)
1900Z-2100Z, Mar 18 (432)

CLARA and Family HF Contest—1700Z, Mar 18 to 1700Z, Mar 19

Virginia QSO Party—1800Z, Mar 18 to 0200Z, Mar 20

UBA Spring Contest, 6m—0700Z-1100Z, Mar 19

9K 15-Meter Contest—1200Z-1600Z, Mar 19

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest—0200Z-0400Z, Mar 20

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB—0000Z, Mar 25 to 2359Z, Mar 26

UBA Spring Contest, 2m—0600Z-1000Z, Mar 26

Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint—0000Z-0400Z, Mar 27

Contest Calendar compliments of WA7BNM @
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.txt>

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OWNED EQUIPMENT

Reviewed December 1, 2005

QTY—DESCRIPTION—LAST LOCATION—DATE

Tower Work

- 1 Gin Pole - KE5RS, John Benedict - 21-Nov-05
- 1 Tower Step - N5NMW, Jeff Schmidt - 22-Nov-05

Antenna measurement

- 1 MFJ Antenna Analyzer - N5KF, Bob Redoutey - 20-Nov-05
- 1 MFJ Grid Dip Adapter W5TA, Dick Foster -20-Nov-05

Antennas

- 1 Butternut HF Vertical 10M-80M - AF5Z, Bob Helms -1-Dec-05
- 1 Cushcraft 6-element 440MHz Beam - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 1-Dec-05
- 1 Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical - W5TA, Dick Foster - 20-Nov-05
- 1 Hygain triband antenna - W5TA, Dick Foster - 20-Nov-05
- 1 Mosley Triband Antenna (Donated by Harvey, N0AJP) - K5AEM, Jon Boles - 20-Nov-05

Masts

- 2 Push Up Masts - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 1-Dec-05
- 1 Push Up Masts - KC5RPF, Ken Larsen - 23-Nov-05
- 2 Push Up Masts - KD5KQV, Virgil Buell - 21-Nov-05

Power Supplies

- 1 20 Amp Power Supply - N5TW, Tom Whiteside - 20-Nov-05

Miscellaneous

- 2 Heavy Duty Power Cords - K5HTK, Jim Hester - 24-Nov-05

Pending sale

- 1 DB Commercial grade Antenna VHF high-band 158MHz - AF5Z, Bob Helms - 1-Dec-05

Tell us your story. Show off your ham shack. WCARC News welcomes articles and commentary from our members. Contact the editor if you want to publish an article or offer commentary on events related to amateur radio. Editorial assistance is absolutely free.

73 de na6m