



# WCARC NEWS

April 2006

www.wcarc.com

## Williamson County Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644  
Georgetown, TX 78627

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### WCARC Officers

#### President

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

#### Vice-President

Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

#### Secretary

Tim Stevens, KD5WML

#### Treasurer

Jon Boles, K5AEM

### WCARC Staff

#### Public information Officer

Virgil Buell, KD4KQV

#### Newsletter Editor

Mark Stennett, NA6M

#### Webmaster

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

#### Guest Speaker Committee

VP - Bob Thompson, W5VGJ  
, Chairman

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Redoutey, N5KF

#### Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

## March Meeting Minutes

The March meeting was called to order at 1930 by Vice-President Bob Thomson, W5VGJ. The February minutes were corrected by Bob Farmer, W9BF who noted that John McColly, W5RQ had presented the DX report at the February meeting. The minutes were then accepted as corrected. The club welcomed new members, Tom, KC5QLZ and Jim, KD5UBT. There were 32 members who signed the meeting roster.

President Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW took over the meeting at 1936.

### Treasurer's Report

Galen, WA0YVQ presented the Treasurer's report for Jon Boles, K5AEM. The Treasurer's report was accepted by the members present.

February, 2006

Beginning Balance:	\$2,625.52
Receipts/Deposits:	\$1,166.00
Expenditures:	\$ 646.34
Ending Balance:	\$3,145.18
ARES Funds Available:	\$ 335.00
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,818.18

### Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	42	54
Family	9	15
Honorary	3	3
Total	54	72
Total Persons		76

### ARES REPORT - Galen Helmkamp WA0YVQ

Galen reminded the membership that the monthly ARES meeting is held on the second Thursday of the month at the Round Rock Fire Station #6. at 7 pm. Galen told those present of the packet activities in Honduras by a medical group and Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator. The team provided medical services out in the boonies and used Winlink via the N5TW nodes quite effectively to relay related traffic.

### Repeater Report—Mark Stennett, NA6M

The club repeater is working fine.

### DX Report—Bob Farmer, W9BF

Bob told the members about the Peter One DXpedition, noted as one of the most expensive efforts in history. The SSB effort was responsible for about 87,000 contacts with 3Y0X. Logs are available online at <http://www.peterone.com>. Bob also noted that the ARRL SSB Contest was coming up the weekend of March 4th and 5th.

## Old Business

Jim Michel, KB7UQD discussed the Spokes and Spurs Bicycle Race that takes place on Saturday, March 11th. As of the meeting, the 66 mile race was still in need of 8 sag wagon operators and a net control operator.

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX discussed the club picnic, scheduled for April 15th. Vice President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ said he was starting to look into food options and noted that he had been busy with work. Jim Bittick, KC5BHF said he usually barbequed 25 lbs of meat for the club in the past. President Paul Gilbert said he will look into the costs to cater just the meat for the event and suggested that the club could pot luck the sides and desserts. The county wide burn ban resulted in the grills being taped off at the San Gabriel Park.

Rick Trommer, W5NR discussed the SwapFest and said he was pleased with the turnout. Rick thanked Cliff White, WD5DYA and his wife Lenore for their help with the door prizes, Dave Hassel, N5IW and his team for heading up the license exam session, Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX for helping with talk in duties, Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW and Ken Larson, KC5RPF for their assistance with parking and Mark Stennett, NA6M for running the equipment test and measurement bench. There were 27 vehicles inside the show barn and two commercial vendors. Proceeds from the event totaled \$650. Rick explained that he has been doing the SwapFest for the past 5 years and wants the club to form a

## March Meeting Minutes continued...

committee to decide how to handle the event next year and would like the club to make the Swap Fest more club oriented. Following discussion, Kees Talen, K5BCQ volunteered to chair the committee.

### New Business

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX made a motion to have the club pay for a polo shirt for club officers serving the club. Motion was seconded by Jim Hester, K5HTK. Discussion followed, John Boles reported that the polo shirts cost the club \$26 for regular size and \$27 for XL. The motion passed with two members opposed. President Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW volunteered to buy his polo shirt.

Craig Boegler, W5TSN said that Bob Petrosky, N5TT lives in Sun City and has only a Yaesu VX-5 Handheld radio. Craig asked the club to consider coming up with a radio for Bob to use in his house so his signal would be better into the local repeaters. Following discussion, Mark Stennett, NA6M volunteered a Motorola GM-300 VHF mobile radio. Ken Larson, KC5RPF offered a power supply. Galen Helmchamp, WA0YVQ suggested that the club donate a copper cactus from stock. Another member said he thought Bob already had a mag mount.

Dean Hamilton, K5FDH reminded the membership that the Wesleyan Retirement Home is breaking ground on a new facility and will vacate the current facility by March 2007. The club will need to find a new place to meet before then. The club expressed appreciation for being able to meet at the Wesleyan Retirement Home for the past several years.

Andrew Wood, KC5DJT mentioned that the Highland Lakes Radio Club has expressed interest in doing a mutual Swap Fest with the WCARC.

Dean Hamilton, K5FDH volunteered to bring refreshments to the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2022.

The April Program was presented by Larry Hammel, K5OT on his multi operator contest operation as 6Y2Z in Jamaica.

*Minutes by Mark Stennett, NA6M*

### Join Us For Breakfast

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

### WCARC Meetings, 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM

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

### Granger Lake Boy Scout Camporee

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, the WCARC was well represented at the Granger Camporee with two HF stations, a VHF voice station and a VHF Winlink 2000 Packet demonstration station. Just like Field Day only a lot cooler! I'd like to thank Andrew KC5DJT, Bob W9BF, Brad KD5LHH, D.C. AE5Q and Michael N5KDY for coming out to setup and run things! Credit is also due to Harvey N0AJP and Galen WA0YVQ who were on station from their homes doing local voice and Winlink.

We received thanks from the Scout organizers for a fine job and gave a number of Scouts a good introduction to amateur radio.

Photos on Page 5.

Tom N5TW

## Website Of The Month

### Datasheet Catalog

<http://www.datasheetcatalog.com/>

Datasheets for electronic components, integrated circuits, transistors, diodes, and other components.

**WCARC Repeater: 146.640 MHz, 162.2 PL**

### WCARES Meetings, 2nd Thursday - 7:00 PM

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

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

## ARES Report—Jim Russell, NQ5L

Opportunities for ARES members (and others) interested in emergency communications to practice their net operating procedure skills continue to be available. There are events scheduled that enlist amateur support, like the Capital 10K run the first weekend in April. Others are regularly announced at the monthly ARES meeting and by email to the ARES email list.

One of our members, John KE5RS, has provided a very valuable service by creating an on line registration web site that allows members to enter and update their information. By having access to this site, we can instantly find out who may be available and have the right resources to call for deployment.

The meeting project for February was the construction of a suitable jumper cable kit to connect a mobile to the battery in a host vehicle. Thanks to Dallas, KD4HNX, for organizing this event and providing an interesting building exercise.

Looking ahead to the fall Simulated Emergency Test, the ARES AECs are putting together a "humdinger" of an exercise. This one is aimed at escalating even further our training and will require a coordinated response by voice units, mobile units, digital units, and ATV units. In other words, there is something for everyone. Now is a good time to join ARES and start training for the "Big One".

The group is also exploring very seriously the idea of incorporating the Williamson County ARES organization as a non-profit and obtaining IRS 501(c) 3 status as an aid in further fund raising. That will be the topic at the April meeting.

Andrew Wood, KC5DJT has stepped forward and volunteered to serve as the adjacent county AEC. Thank you, Andrew!

If you have ideas for 2006, please forward them to [NQ5L@ARRL.net](mailto:NQ5L@ARRL.net).

**Additional Leadership Position** We have a critical AEC position to fill. We need a Training AEC to watch over the training needs of the group. Contact Jim Russell for more information on this important position.

**Reminders.** The monthly meeting is on April 13 at 7:00 PM. Our new meeting site is at Round Rock Fire Station 6 near the Dell Diamond.

Jim Russell

NQ5L

**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 picnic is coming up this month. Saturday, April 15th at the San Gabriel Park in Georgetown.

We will have BBQ provided by the club with a Pot Luck side dish and desert selection provided by the members of the club.

Even though it is Easter weekend, I hope as many as can will attend and enjoy fellowship with each other and then enjoy their families on Sunday.

The Belton hamfest is soon, April 22nd in Belton at the Expo Center. It is always a good show for finding those parts and pieces and having a nice prowl through a hamfest.

Remember the WCARC ARES Net on Sunday's at 8pm. I have out of town quite a bit and not able to check in much. But hope that will slow down a bit for awhile.

Hurricane season is just around the corner. We did a steller job last year with the "evil twin sisters" Katrina and Rita.

Get your jump kits and radios ready, for the weather guru's say the Gulf of Mexico is 1 degree hotter than last year and that is a bad thing. It is "When" not "If" Texas will get hit by a big one. We have had range fires and now will come the hurricanes. Hams are always ready for duty.

See everyone at the meeting and on the repeater.

In Service,

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

## In Other News...

**WA7BNM Contest Calendar—March, 2006**

Kids Roundup-1400Z, Apr 1 to 2200Z, Apr 2  
SP DX Contest-1500Z, Apr 1 to 1500Z, Apr 2  
EA RTTY Contest-1600Z, Apr 1 to 1600Z, Apr 2  
QCWA Spring QSO Party-1800Z, Apr 1 to 1800Z, Apr 2  
Missouri QSO Party-1800Z, Apr 1 to 0500Z, Apr 2  
 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 2 Low Power-0000Z-0359Z, Apr 2  
RSGB RoPoCo 1-0700Z-0900Z, Apr 2  
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW-1900Z-2030Z, Apr 3  
ARS Spartan Sprint-0100Z-0300Z, Apr 4  
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW-1400Z, Apr 4 to  
 0200Z, Apr 6  
144 MHz Spring Sprint-1900 loc - 2300 loc, Apr 4  
SARL 80m QSO Party-1700Z-2000Z, Apr 6  
JIDX CW Contest-0700Z, Apr 8 to 1300Z, Apr 9  
ARCI Spring QSO Party-1200Z, Apr 8 to 2400Z, Apr 9  
EU Spring Sprint, CW-1600Z-1959Z, Apr 8  
Georgia QSO Party-1800Z, Apr 8 to 0359Z, Apr 9  
 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 9  
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest-2100Z, Apr 8 to  
 2100Z, Apr 9  
Montana QSO Party-2300Z, Apr 8 to 2300Z, Apr 9  
UBA Spring Contest, SSB-0600Z-1000Z, Apr 9  
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest-1200Z-1400Z,  
 Apr 9  
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB-1400Z, Apr 11 to  
 0200Z, Apr 13  
NAQCC 80m Straight Key/Bug Sprint-0030Z-0230Z, Apr 12  
 0330Z-0530Z, Apr 12  
222 MHz Spring Sprint-1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 12  
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB-1900Z-2030Z, Apr 12  
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest-0000Z-2400Z, Apr  
 15  
Holyland DX Contest-0000Z-2359Z, Apr 15  
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party-0001Z, Apr 15 to  
 2359Z, Apr 23  
ES Open HF Championship-0500Z-0559Z, Apr 15  
 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 15, 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 15  
 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 15  
EU Spring Sprint, SSB-1600Z-1959Z, Apr 15  
Michigan QSO Party-1600Z, Apr 15 to 0400Z, Apr 16  
EA-QRP CW Contest-1700Z-2000Z, Apr 15 (20-10m)2000Z-  
 2300Z, Apr 15 (80m)0700Z-1000Z, Apr 16 (40m)1000Z-  
 1300Z, Apr 16 (20-10m)  
Ontario QSO Party-1800Z, Apr 15 to 1800Z, Apr 16  
YU DX Contest-2100Z, Apr 15 to 0500Z, Apr 16, 0900Z-  
 1700Z, Apr 16  
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest-0100Z-0300Z, Apr 17  
Low Power Spring Sprint-1400Z-2000Z, Apr 17  
432 MHz Spring Sprint-1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 20  
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data-1900Z-2030Z, Apr 20  
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder-0230Z-0300Z, Apr 21  
DX Colombia International Contest-0000Z, Apr 22 to  
 2359Z, Apr 23  
SP DX RTTY Contest-1200Z, Apr 22 to 1200Z, Apr 23  
Florida QSO Party-1600Z, Apr 22 to 0159Z, Apr 23  
 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 23  
Nebraska QSO Party-1700Z, Apr 22 to 1700Z, Apr 23  
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder-0230Z-0300Z, Apr 28  
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Spring Rally-0000Z, Apr  
 29 to 2359Z, May 7  
SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest-0600 local, Apr 29  
 to 2400 local, Apr 30  
Helvetia Contest-1300Z, Apr 29 to 1259Z, Apr 30  
Alabama QSO Party-1700Z, Apr 29 to 0500Z, Apr 30

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

## Granger Lake Photos



The Winlink station with it's attractive glare screen



Antennas being set up



D.C. and Brad setting up the VHF antenna



Ready for the crowds!



Foreground – DC shows HF ropes

Background – a visitor uses the second HF station

### *Editor's Note*

*Thanks to Tom Whiteside, N5TW for these photos and description of the Granger Lake Boy Scouts Event. While Tom had submitted this for the February Newsletter, yours truly missed the email until after the March newsletter had been published.*