

WCARC NEWS

May 2006

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

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Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

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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

April Meeting Minutes

WCARC President Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, began the meeting by asking that visitors be recognized and Matt Stennett was introduced. 20 signed the meeting roster while approximately 25 were counted during the roll call. The minutes contained in the newsletter were discussed: they stated that Jon Boles, K5AEM, had reported pricing information about polo shirts but, since he had not attended that meeting, it was determined that Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ, had been the member with that information. The revised minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jon Boles, K5AEM

Jon presented the Treasurer's report, which was approved by the members.

March, 2006

Beginning Balance:	\$3,145.18
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 160.00
Expenditures:	\$ 53.09
Ending Balance:	\$3,252.09
ARES Funds Available:	\$ 360.00
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,892.09

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	54	61
Family	15	16
Honorary	3	3
Total	72	80
Total Persons		97

DX Report—John McColly, W5RQ (See Page 4)

WCARES Report - Jim Russell, NQ5L

Jim began by saying WCARES is off to a good start for the year. The topic for the April meeting, to be held at Round Rock Fire Station #6, would be the group's incorporation as a non-profit organization. He expects the ARES group to have a lot of activity this year. This includes responses to hurricanes that are expected to be strong again since the Gulf of Mexico is 1 degree warmer than the same time last year, which was a serious year. Sunday night WCARES nets are held at 8 PM on the 146.64 MHz Georgetown repeater (tone of 162.2 Hz).

Old Business

WCARC picnic:

The April 15th WCARC barbeque at San Gabriel

Park was discussed by Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW. After consideration of three sources for the meat, Georgetown BBQ was recommended based on price (and Mark NA6M's enthusiastic endorsement). The club approved the selection. More details would be sent through the WCARC reflector.

New Business

Field Day:

Jim Russell, NQ5L, stood in for Dick Foster, W5TA, who, after coordinating WCARC Field Day participation for years, is ready to pass the job to someone new. Dick recommends the group use Heritage Gardens for the event again this year. Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, said the group has time to decide on whether to use Heritage Gardens again but the consideration needs to begin at this time. Additionally, it was announced that Virgil Buell, KD4KQV, would not be attending the event this year so other BBQ grilling arrangements would be required. Paul commended Dick for the excellent job he has performed as Field Day Chairman. The club is now looking for a volunteer to take on this position.

Announcements by Ken Larsen, KC5RPF:

1. On April 8th the Highland Lakes ARC would be providing communication for a bike ride. Rick Chapman would have more information.
2. Weather or Skywarn training will be held at the LCRA on May 30th at from 8:30 AM to 12 PM.**
3. On April 22-23, which is also the Belton Hamfest weekend, the MS 150 Bike Ride event will need volunteers to handle checkpoint communications north of La Grange. Sag riders are also needed and they will be provided with free lodging and food.
4. Texas DPS is hosting a hurricane roundtable discussion in San Antonio in May. Tom Whiteside, N5TW, said that attendance may be restricted. Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, indicated the state is currently having a number of drills focused on hurricane preparedness.

**Secretary's note: The Skywarn training schedule can be found at the following web site: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ewx/html/skytrn.htm>

MSET:

At the end of the meeting, a representative of the Motorcycle Special Events Team (MSET) approached the club to describe their efforts and solicit volunteers for net control duties during future events. This year, MSET will be using commercial radios but they wish to draw upon the ham community because of the radio operators' related experience.

April Meeting Minutes continued...

If anyone is interested in volunteering or learning more, the MSET web page can help. <http://www.mset-tx.org>

Programs—Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

Upcoming Show and Tell projects:

May - Software Defined Radios

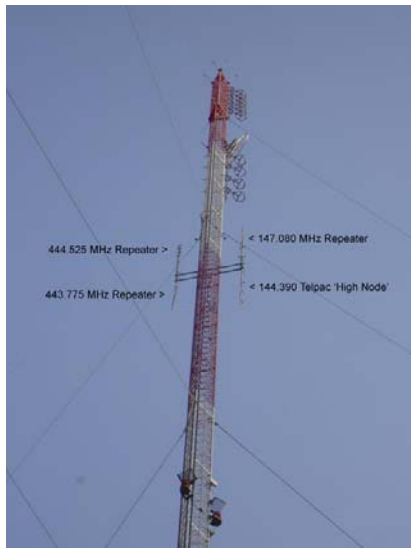
Future - Bob is seeking a volunteer to try the MFJ analyzer on cables and antennas and then demonstrate all its uses to the club.

The April program was an update on digital emergency communications, presented by Jim Russell, NQ5L.

Minutes by the honorable club Secretary, Tim Stevens—KD5WML

New UHF Repeater in Georgetown—Mark Stennett, NA6M

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW has a new UHF repeater on the air in Georgetown. The new system is located on the KINV tower and is co-located with the 147.080 and 444.525 MHz boxes. The system shares the 147.080 transmission line thanks to a couple of diplexers at each end. The frequency is 443.775 MHz with a + 5 MHz offset and a PL tone of 131.8 Hz. Adding this system to the mix was quite simple. The antenna and top diplexer were hung while the tower crew was installing an auxiliary antenna for the broadcast station. Telewave makes a



very nice VHF/UHF diplexer in a weather sealed box, perfect for mounting up the tower with the antennas. Coverage is very good with a DB-420 folded dipole antenna mounted 340 feet above ground.

The repeater itself is a Motorola GR-1225 desktop model with a flat pack diplexer. Power output is about 28 watts out of the duplexer. This is yet another example of how we can maximize the usefulness of our resources.

73 de na6m

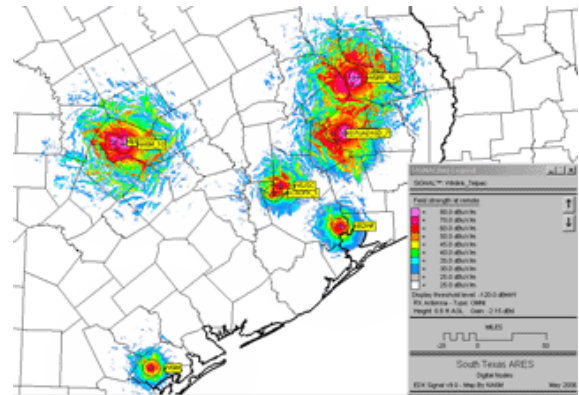
Join Us For Breakfast

WCARC Breakfast - Saturdays at 7:00AM
 Café On The Square Restaurant
 119 W 7th St
 Georgetown, TX 78626

WCARC Meetings, 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM

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

South Texas ARES Digital Network Mapping Project



Here is a sneak peek at a map project I am working on for the South Texas ARES group. When finished, this map will show all of the digital nodes available across the region. Individual maps of each station in the network will also be available to show coverage patterns in greater detail.

73 de na6m

Website Of The Month

Radio Mobile Freeware by VE2DBE

<http://www.cplus.org/rmw/english1.html>

Radio Mobile is a free and powerful tool for plotting RF patterns and predicting the performance of radio systems. The software is written for Microsoft Windows 95, 98 and NT however it works quite well on Windows Millennium Edition (ME) as well as Microsoft Windows XP Professional (I do not have access to a Windows XP Home system to test however there should be no problem.) Using freely available terrain elevation data it can produce grey scale, x-ray and rainbow colored virtual maps. One can also produce 3-D and stereoscopic views as well as flyby animations. Background images can be merged with scanned maps, satellite photos and Mapquest maps to produce accurate prediction plots.

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

HELP FILL THIS SPACE

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

ARES Report—Jim Russell, NQ5L

The April meeting focused on reviewing and approving the necessary documents to file with the State of Texas as a not for profit corporation. The goal is to achieve non-profit recognition by the IRS. That will allow us to seek additional funding from both government grants as well as from private foundations. The goal is to add to the equipment that we can deploy in an emergency.

A truly portable VHF and/or UHF repeater system is one of our goals. The experience in Jasper last year showed that this could be an invaluable addition if there is an extended operation necessary where local infrastructure has been knocked out. While we were extremely lucky to have the use of a commercial repeater, this may not be available next time.

We also want to have a fully ready to go HF station complete with Pactor III capability that could be deployed by ARES members. All of this will take additional funding (or perhaps a lot of patience to do it a little bit at a time).

In any event, the paperwork is on its way to the Capitol for processing.

A reminder that we are in the severe weather season for Texas. It's a good time to make sure that you have supplies on hand and are prepared for bad weather. If you have a "go kit" for emergency use, it's a good time to check it and replace all the items that are lost or broken.

Additional Leadership Position We have an 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 May at 7:00 PM at Round Rock Fire Station 6 near the Dell Diamond. Talk in on the "64" repeater if you need directions.

Jim Russell

NQ5L

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....

It was nice to see everyone at the club picnic. If you didn't stop by you missed out on some good food and ham radio fellowship.

Let's start thinking about Field Day. This event is a lot of fun and is a great way to hone your emergency operating skills. Jim Russell mentioned at the meeting last month that we need a volunteer to coordinate the event after this year. Thanks to Dick Foster for doing a wonderful job.

I've been busy this month with numerous TxDot projects and especially hurricane preparedness. We are setting up HF radios all over the state. With hurricane season right around the corner, now is the time to be prepared. 2006 promises to be an interesting year for weather events.

In Service,

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

Let's hear from you, our members. Show the club what your station is like or tell us about that new project you just finished. Email the editor—Mark Stennett, NA6M at mark@na6m.com

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

In Other News...

WA7BNM Contest Calendar—May, 2006

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 2
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 5
MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW	0000Z, May 6 to 2400Z, May 7
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 6
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 6 to 0700Z, May 7
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 6 to 0400Z, May 7
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 6 to 1959Z, May 7
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7
	1300Z-2400Z, May 7
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 10
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 12
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 13
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1200Z, May 13 to 2400Z, May 14
	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
	1700Z-2100Z, May 13
FISTS Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 13 to 0300Z, May 14
50 MHz Spring Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0030Z-0230Z, May 18
NAQCC 80m Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0330Z-0530Z, May 18
	1900Z-2030Z, May 18
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	0230Z-0300Z, May 19
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0000Z, May 20 to 2400Z, May 21
US Counties QSO Party, SSB	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
EU PSK DX Contest	1500Z-2100Z, May 20
	1500Z, May 20 to 1500Z, May 21
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, PSK31	1500Z, May 20 to 1500Z, May 21
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, CW/SSB	1500Z, May 20 to 1500Z, May 21
21	
Manchester Mineira CW Contest	1500Z, May 20 to 2400Z, May 21
	2100Z, May 20 to 0200Z, May 21
Baltic Contest	1900Z-2300Z, May 25
	0000Z, May 27 to 2359Z, May 28
QRP Minimal Art Session	0800Z-1400Z, May 27
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	2000 - 2400 local, May 28
	2300Z, May 28 to 0300Z, May 29
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, CW	
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	

Contest Calendar compliments of WA7BNM @

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.txt>



San Gabriel Park—Georgetown, TX

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

DX Report - John McColly, W5RQ

...from page 1

There are two expeditions in April.* One begins on the Tuesday the 11th and goes to Aves Island (Venezuela) in the Caribbean. This location requires special permission and so it is a rare expedition. It should, however, be an easy QSO for Central Texas hams. Another rare expedition is one to the Andaman Islands, off the coast of India, and begins on April 18th. A similar trip in 2004 was cut short by storms. This time, there will be four teams leaving from Europe, Asia, and the US. The expeditions have government approval to run for 8 days. The call sign is expected to be VU4AN, followed by the operator's call.

*Secretary's note: The following web sites have more information about these DXpedition efforts.

Aves Island
<http://www.yv0.info/frames.html>

Andaman Islands
<http://www.dx-pedition.de/andaman2006/index1.html>
<http://www.arl.org/news/stories/2006/04/27/1/?nc=1>

WCARC Spring Picnic 2006—San Gabriel Park



Photos by Tim Stevens—KD5WML