

# WCARC NEWS

June 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

## May Meeting Minutes

WCARC Vice-President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, called the meeting to order and three visitors were identified: Richard Gillson, WX6E, Ben Lake, KE5IER, and Neal Mann, KE5IES. 35 responded to the roll call. The meeting minutes were discussed and approved by the members.

### Treasurer's Report — Jon Boles, K5AEM

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

April, 2006

Beginning Balance:	\$3,252.09
Receipts/Deposits:	\$753.62
Expenditures:	\$296.02
Ending Balance:	\$3,709.69
ARES Funds Available:	\$976.62
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,733.07

### Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	61	64
Family	16	18
Honorary	3	3
Total	80	88
Total Persons		104

### WCARES Report — Jim Russell, NQ5L

Jim described how WCARES' focus for the last month has been following through on the group's decision to incorporate as a non-profit organization.

It will first file with the state and then at the federal level with the IRS. The initial process is expected to take at least a month, but the IRS applications will take an undetermined amount of time. The goal of this effort is to help WCARES more easily raise funds and do some things for free. Also, Harvey, N0AJP, and Galen, WA0YVQ, were acknowledged for their efforts to convert some equipment into cash for the group.

### Repeater Report — Tom Whiteside, N5TW

The club repeater is on 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

### DX Report — John McColly, W5RQ

John reviewed April's two important DXpeditions - one to the Andaman Islands (India) and one to the Aves Islands (Venezuela). The Andaman Islands effort was set up as part of a hamfest with the goal further acquainting the Indian government with ham radio and encouraging them to license more people. 50 hams from all over the world staffed 10-15 portable stations in the islands.

The best propagation for Central Texas was found on 20 meters in the early mornings hours during the event. The second DXpedition, to the Aves Islands, went off the air for a day when, after 36 hours, one of the hams suffered a fatal heart attack. Jose Valdez, YV5LIX, became silent key and the team on the DXpedition adopted the new call sign YX0LIX in his honor for the remainder of the project.

### Old Business

Dick Foster, W5TA, who, after chairing the WCARC Field Day participation for years, is ready to pass the job to someone new. His suggestion for this year is to operate as 2A, two stations, and the group will need a captain for each: one for a CW station and one for a phone station. Another person will be required for arranging the raising of a tower. Dick pointed out that this is the bottom of the sun spot cycle and suggested raising an 80 meter inverted-L antenna. RVs (shelters) and generators were discussed by several members and the need for a cook was highlighted. Without a volunteer for the cook position, fast food may have to be considered. New members are strongly encouraged to participate. More will be discussed at the next club meeting.

## April Meeting Minutes continued...

### New Business

Southwestern University station:

A couple of new hams from Southwestern attended the May WCARC meeting. They were licensed after UT held a special session of testing in Georgetown. A proposal was made for club sponsorship of a station at Southwestern to generate interest in ham radio. The motion was approved by the club membership and several volunteers formed a committee to oversee the effort.

Shirts:

Ideas for new shirts, embroidered and others, were discussed. Those interested in shirts should contact Jon Boles, K5AEM.

National Wildlife Refuge Week:

It was reported that, in QST magazine, a ham out of Michigan proposed a DX operation in conjunction with National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second weekend of October. Nationwide plans are still preliminary and several suggestions were proposed for locations that those interested might operate from.

Texas QSO Party - Plaques:

Job Boles, K5AEM, said the club has paid for 2 plaques annually in recent years and asked the membership if they wished to do it again this year. The expense is \$35 so the impact to the club funds would be negligible. There was general agreement but no vote.

### Program—Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

The May program was a show and tell of some of the membership's projects and radios.

The program for June will be finalizing Field Day arrangements.

*Minutes by the honorable club Secretary, Tim Stevens—KD5WML*

### 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**



*Jim Mischel — KB7UQD Provides Bicycle Generator Power at the 2005 WCARC Field Day. Come join in the FD Fun in 2006.*

## Website Of The Month

### Sound Card Interfacing for RTTY, PSK31, & SSTV

<http://www.w5bbr.com/soundbd.html>

W5BBR Says on his web page:

"Who needs a collection of interface connections to choose from when having a desire to use the Soundboard in their computer to provide capability for using RTTY, PSK31, and SSTV modes on the amateur bands? Well from my experience the answer is many of us, me included. After a large amount of research I found the following circuits helpful when setting up my own system."

**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**

*The radio donated to Bob Petrosky, N5TT as mentioned in the April WCARC News has been returned. Bob ended up getting a Yaesu radio.*

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

## ARES Report—Jim Russell, NQ5L

The May ARES meeting focused on formal training that is available for all amateurs and encouraged for all ARES members. This includes the formal ARRL Emergency Communications courses (Levels I, II, and III). We would encourage everyone to take at least the Level I course for the basics. This is the core training offered by our national organization and covers all of the basics of what to expect during an emergency deployment.

In addition, FEMA has a series of on line courses that are free for any US resident to take. The recommended courses include IS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System, IS-200 ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents, IS-700 National Incident Management System, and IS-800 National Response Plan.

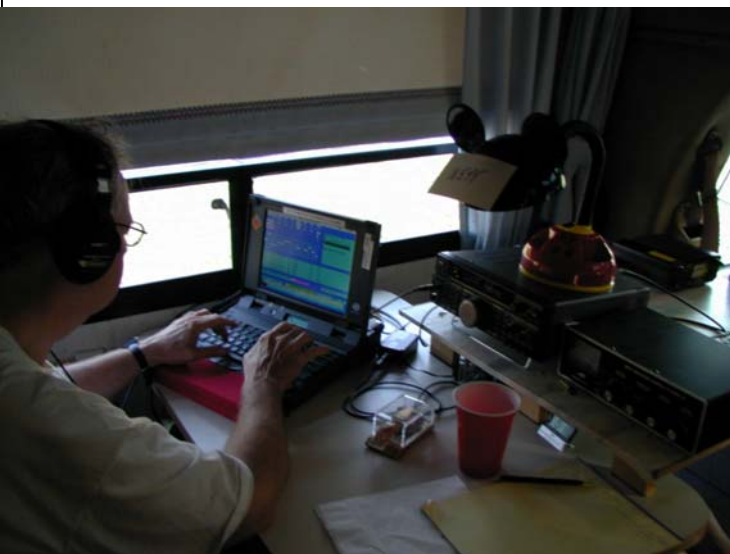
As you take these courses, please update the ARES registration site maintained by John, KE5RS, so we can have an accurate picture of what training has been completed within our organization.

During May we also activated a Skywarn net on May 14 with 11 stations checking in, and possibly more listening "on the side". This followed one Skywarn net on April 28. Severe weather season is still here, and the hurricane season will be starting up soon.

**Reminders.** The monthly meeting is on June 8 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



*Dick Foster, W5TA operates the CW station at the WCARC 2005 Field Day.*

**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 annual ARRL Field Day is coming up very quickly! It is set for June 24-25th.

As it stands currently, plans are to hold field day at Heritage Gardens like was done in 2005.

Dick, W5TA is the chairman for Field Day 2006. He will be needing help and hands to get the event up and running.

Dick is also looking for someone to take over the position of Field Day Chairman that he has held for some time. Please consider taking on this valuable task to help the club.

There will be much discussion at this month's (June's) meeting for organizing the event.

Hurricane season started this week. Despite the predictions of a less severe season, I am sure Texas will see some sort of storm coming ashore.

The WinLink net is in good shape and has been expanded so it can handle the traffic such events generate. Winlink and its associated parts proved it's self well in the Katrina / Rita events of last year. While we hope there is not a repeat performance, the amateur radio community is ready and willing.

So, get your equipment ready now and pray for the best.

In Service...

Paul, KE5ZW

## In Other News...

### WA7BNM Contest Calendar—June, 2006

Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 2
SEANET Contest	1200Z, Jun 3 to 1200Z, Jun 4
RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, Jun 3 to 1500Z, Jun 4
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 3 to 1459Z, Jun 4
QRP TAC Sprint	1800Z-2359Z, Jun 3
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 6
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 9
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Jun 10 to 2400Z, Jun 11
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 10
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 10
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 10 to 1500Z, Jun 11
REF DDFM 6m Contest	1600Z, Jun 10 to 1600Z, Jun 11
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 10 to 0300Z, Jun 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 14 0330Z-0530Z, Jun 14
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 14
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 16
SARL Youth Day	0700Z-1100Z, Jun 16
Council of Europe RC 20th Anniversary Challenge	0800Z, Jun 16 to 1000Z, Jun 18
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 17 to 2400Z, Jun 18
SMIRK Contest	0000Z, Jun 17 to 2400Z, Jun 18
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 17 to 0200Z, Jun 18
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Jun 17 (144) 1900Z-2100Z, Jun 17 (432)
Quebec QSO Party	1700Z, Jun 17 to 0300Z, Jun 18
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jun 17
DIE Contest	0600Z-1200Z, Jun 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 19
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 22
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 23
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 24 to 1200Z, Jun 25
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 24 to 1200Z, Jun 25
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	[cancelled]
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 24 to 2100Z, Jun 25
ARCI Milliwatt Field Day	1800Z, Jun 24 to 2100Z, Jun 25
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 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



Heavy items need to be packed well. This power supply was bought on eBay and was damaged in shipment because of the inadequate packing. Fortunately the only damage was to the heat sinks

and the seller agreed to refund their replacement cost. This 50 amp power supply will serve as a spare for the NA6M repeaters.

# Field Day 2005 Photos...



The satellite station in operation...



Good food is always on the list at the WCARC Field Day Event.



Fellow club members kicking back, discussing the ones that got away.



Steve Cowell, KI5YG, taking section names and numbers on the phone station.



I hope you enjoy these photos from last year and will attend the WCARC 2006 Field Day Event. This is a fun activity for everyone and a great opportunity to get on HF. If your license doesn't have HF privileges, don't worry because there will be plenty of control operators on hand to help you out.

73 de NA6M

*At the left, Mel Cruits' — KF6OZ , portable tower and HF beam.*

*KB7UQD climbs it on the right to make a technical adjustment.*

