



# WCARC NEWS

July 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

## June Meeting Minutes

Vice-President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, called the meeting to order and noted the attendance was somewhat low this time (approximately 24 members responded to the role call and there was no sign-in sheet). There were no visitors or guests present at the June meeting. The meeting minutes for May were approved by the members.

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

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

Beginning Balance:	\$3,709.69
Receipts/Deposits:	\$30.00
Expenditures:	\$56.79
Ending Balance:	\$3,682.90
ARES Funds Available:	\$976.62
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,706.28

### Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	64	67
Family	18	18
Honorary	3	3
Total	85	88
Total Persons		107

### WCARES Report — Jim Russell, NQ5L

The focus for ARES this month is on training. The next meeting will be in Round Rock on Thursday at 7 PM. Jim reminded the group that there will be an SET this fall. Also, he reminded all that a very heavy hurricane season has been forecast for this year.

### Repeater Report — Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom reported that the club repeater (146.64 MHz, tone of 162.2 Hz) is working well and he welcomed all to use it. Bob, W5VGJ, added that the Walburg repeater (145.13 MHz, no tone) is much stronger into Temple but that it also does not seem to be as sensitive. While he can key the 146.64 machine on

25 Watts, he had to use 50 Watts to use the 145.13 repeater.

There was speculation as to the current health of the 145.13 machine and Mark, NA6M, thought there was still some transmission line work planned for it. He believes the 145.13 repeater is currently working off a two bay antenna mounted at 60 feet.

### DX Report — John McColly, W5RQ

There were no DX or contest reports this month (except that Bob, W5VGJ, commented that 20 meters operation has been poor lately).

### Old Business

#### Southwestern University station— Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Last month a WCARC committee was formed to work with a new group of hams at Southwestern University in Georgetown. An antenna and radio have been loaned to the new group and placement for the antenna was explored. Tom recommends WCARC continues to work with the Southwestern group to get them off to a good start. To date, WCARC has not provided any equipment and the new club already has a nice radio room in a lab. The group's members are currently only licensed for VHF/UHF but are interested in working HF and CW. Therefore, additional equipment might be needed in the future.

### Field Day

The membership approved a motion to pay Heritage Gardens \$150 so the club can operate there on Field Day.

### Club Equipment List

Mark Stennett, NA6M, suggested a review of the club equipment list. Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, read through the list as members corrected it or accepted the task of confirming possession of items by those not present at the meeting. The list is published monthly in the newsletter.

## April Meeting Minutes continued...

### New Business

#### Ham-Com

Ham-Com will be Saturday, June 10th, in Plano. Tom Whiteside, N5TW, announced he would be delivering an ARES presentation about digital progress being made in the Southwest using maps created by Mark Stennett, NA6M. Also to be presented is a presentation on ARES coverage of hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

#### Books for Deep Wood Elementary School

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, proposed buying 10 of the ARRL's Now You're Talking books for the library at Deep Wood Elementary School in Round Rock.

The discounted price for the books is \$20 each (10% off the standard price in addition to free shipping). The books would be used to teach Technician-level skills to 15 students in a ham class at the school. The motion was approved by the membership.

#### Port-A-Potty for Field Day

Dick Foster, W5TA, said that certain facilities at Heritage Gardens were scarce. He suggested renting a Port-A-Potty to help with the situation.

Alternative plans discussed included moving to another park where such facilities were more abundant. The club approved the rental of a Port-A-Potty.

#### Program—Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

The program for June is finalizing Field Day arrangements. A DVD video of last year's Field Day was presented.

*Editors note... I did not receive the changes to the equipment list in time for the newsletter this month. Please see the updates next month.*

*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



You have to feed that generator. Jim Michel works hard for a beverage. Tom Whiteside only promised it.

## Website Of The Month

### Real time weather data on your desktop.

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

Gibson Ridge Software, LLC (GRS) was created in March 2005 and produces viewers for weather radar data. GRS applications include GRLevel2 for viewing Level II radar data and GRLevel3 for viewing Level III data. Both viewers feature high speed, high quality radar displays with an intuitive user interface. All GRS applications are written in multithreaded C++ using the base Windows APIs for speed and efficiency.

**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 June ARES meeting conducted training on the passing of messages using simulated radio nets. This is a variation of the "plates" exercise from earlier years. There was an interesting exchange of messages and ideas. A somewhat clearer idea of some of the issues surrounding generation and passing of formal message handling was generated.

Several of our ARES members who are also active in the Williamson County ARC took part in the annual Field Day exercise. This is designed to be an exercise in deploying resources in a manner similar to what might be needed in an actual emergency. I'll let the other folks who organized Field Day comment more, but the morning dawned with a substantial amount of rain fall in our chosen area.

From prior experience, the RV owners elected not to get stuck in the mud at the designated site. So, much like a real deployment needing adaptation to the situation, the Field Day site was moved pretty much en masse to the home of Bob Thompson, W5VGJ. I think everyone got the word on our "resource net" on the 64 repeater.

**Reminders.** The monthly meeting is on July 10 at 7:00 PM at Round Rock Fire Station 6 near the Dell Diamond. Talk in on the "64" repeater if you need directions. The topic is "Go Kits" so bring yours for show and tell time.

Jim Russell  
NQ5L



*Jim Russell NQ5L operates the Phone station at the WCARC 2006 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,

We had fun at the WCARC Field Day event even though we had to change the venue at the last minute due to the rain. Heritage Gardens was just drenched. This actually was a good thing since it taught our participating members to be flexible and to be able to come up with an alternate plan and execute it at the last minute. I think we communicated the changes rather well.

Thanks again to Dick Foster for leading the effort and to Bob Thompson for hosting the event this year at his house at the last minute.

In Service...

Paul, KE5ZW

## IMPORTANT

### AUSTIN SUMMERFEST INFORMATON

For those of you who have noticed, Red Lion Hotel at IH-290 E and I-35, location of Austin Summerfest, has changed its name. It is now a Holiday Inn "Crowne Plaza". While a name change was anticipated, the actual name and date was not known. Many thousand Summerfest fliers/schedules had already been printed with the old name. Please pass the "Crowne Plaza" name change along to any out-of-town convention visitors so the confusion is minimized. All other details remain the same. "Welcome to Austin Summerfest" will be displayed on the Hotel Marquee signs near the entrances to the hotel parking lot at convention time. The talk-in operators on 146.94 MHz will know of and announce the name change frequently.

Please refer to <http://www.austinsummerfest.org> for more information or contact Joe W5HS 345-0800 w5hs@arrl.net

## In Other News...

### WA7BNM Contest Calendar — July, 2006

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 1 to 2359Z, Jul 2
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 1 to 1059Z, Jul 2
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jul 1 to 1500Z, Jul 2
DARC 10M Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 2
RSGB 80m Club Champ, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 3
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 4
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
VK/Trans-Tasman 160m Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jul 8
IARU HF World Champ 1200Z,	Jul 8 to 1200Z, Jul 9
FISTS Summer Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Jul 8
Six Club Contest 1800Z, Jul 8	to 2100Z, Jul 9
ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Jul 9
RSGB 80m Club Champ, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 12
Thurs NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 14
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 15 to 2100Z, Jul 16
N. American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 15 to 0600Z, Jul 16
RSGB Low Power Field Day	0900Z-1600Z, Jul 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 20
	0330Z-0530Z, Jul 20
RSGB 80m Club Champ, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 20
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 21
Great Lakes Sweepstakes	[cancelled]
VK/Trans-Tasman 160m, CW	0800Z-1400Z, Jul 22
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 29 to 1200Z, Jul 30
ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	1700Z-2100Z, Jul 30

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



Jim Michel makes juice while Steve Cowell watches the regulation for the QRP station.

### 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



If you missed Virgil's cooking, you missed a lot..

## Field Day 2006...

### CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, This is Whiskey Charlie Five Tango.

Comments from the GOTA Station Captain/Coach. The GOTA Operators were; - Chris Williams, KE5FNX, with over 100 contacts. - Matt Stennett, no call yet, with over 50 contacts. - Mark Bell, KC5SYZ, - Sherrie Blanchard, KC5PWO, - Karl Falken, KE5GJB, - Ken Larson, KC5RPF, - Dennis Thompson, KD5FWR, Coleman Callaway, N4IM, as Co-Coach and Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, the Captain/Coach.

Chris and Matt really ran the GOTA station and had a blast. At the beginning they were logging on paper and by the end of FD they were logging directly into the PC. They even helped coach Karl on how to make contacts. Chris manned the station all night and didn't crash until Matt came back in the morning. Chris even made 20 or so contacts on the 6M station, separate log of course. I think they are hooked.

Bonus Points as I see them:

7.2.3. Power Multipliers, QSO's times 2 for less than 150 watts  
 $216 \times 2 = 432$

7.3.13.1. 50 QSO Bonus Points:  
 Chris gets 100 and Matt 50

7.3.13.2. GOTA Coach Bonus Points:  
 We get 100 for Chris and 50 for Matt.

7.3.15. Field Day Youth Points for operators 18 years old or less:  
 We get 20 for Chris and 20 for Matt.

GOTA Station Points Summary:

QSOs 216 with 2x Power Multiplier, 432

QSO Bonus, 150

Coach Bonus, 150

Youth Bonus, 40

GOTA Total: 772 So we smoked the Side Band Station...

And just in case nobody else said it, thanks Dick, W5TA, taking the lead again.

Dallas, KD4HNX



Chris Williams, KE5FNX has a great time on HF.



Training operators makes you hungry. Dallas takes a break while the GOTA machine keeps cranking.



And cranking and cranking... Chris—KE5FNX on the left, Matt Stennett on the right.