

WCARC NEWS

August 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

July Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2006

WCARC President Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, called the meeting to order and invited visitors and guests to identify themselves but there were no responses. The roll call produced 33 responses (27 names were on the sign-in sheets). The previous meeting's minutes were approved by the members after a correction was made to page 5 of the newsletter: Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, said the call sign of Dennis Thompson is KE5FRW instead of KD5FWR.

Treasurer's Report — Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ.

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

June, 2006

Beginning Balance:	\$3,682.90
Receipts/Deposits:	-
Expenditures:	\$551.90
Ending Balance:	\$3,131.00
ARES Funds Available:	\$976.62
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,154.38

Paid Membership

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

WCARES Report — Jim Russell, NQ5L

Jim reported that a fun time was had last month when passing traffic during an exercise at the ARES meeting (which he likened to the Tower of Babel). The next meeting will be in Round Rock at Fire Station #6 on Thursday at 7 PM. The topic is Go Kits and all are invited to bring theirs for a show and tell.

Repeater Report — Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom reported that the club repeater is working well and can be found at 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

DX Report & Contests — Tom Whiteside, N5TW

There is a new country being formed - Montenegro. It is number 336 on the DXCC (DX Century Club) list. Also, the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) contest is this weekend providing a great chance to chase DX contacts.

Old Business

Field Day - Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

1. Report

To be covered during tonight's program.

2. Heritage Garden's Fees

Since Heritage Garden was not used for Field Day, as had been planned, there were three options given to WCARC by Heritage concerning the money that had been paid:

A) Request a refund

B) Leave the money in place at Heritage to pay for next year's use of the site for Field Day

C) Donate the money to Heritage Garden

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, said that Heritage Garden would probably not be considered again for Field Day because of past experiences with rain (makes the location unusable). He suggested that the Club ask for only half the money back since Heritage Garden held the spot for WCARC on Field Day. After some discussion, Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, said the Club would follow that plan.

3. Field Day Port-A-Potty

The status of the Port-A-Potty was unknown though someone reported seeing it on the grounds at Heritage Garden. Paul said he would send Dick Foster, W5TA, a request for information.

April Meeting Minutes continued...

New Business

Austin Summerfest 2006 - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

The name of the Red Lion Hotel's name has been changed to Crowne Plaza (Austin North Central). Dallas said he still needs volunteers to do talk-ins.

Refreshments

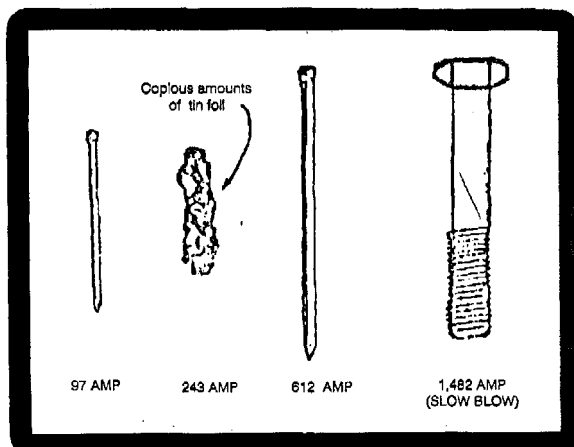
Tom Whiteside, N5TW, volunteered to provide refreshments at the August meeting.

Programs — Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

The program for July is a review of Field Day.

Minutes by the honorable club Secretary, Tim Stevens—KD5WML

"OFFICIAL" NATIONWIDE GUIDE FOR FUSE REPLACEMENT

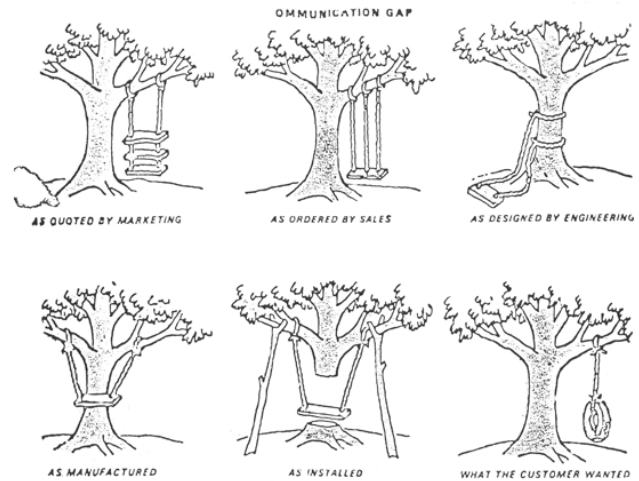


Join Us For Breakfast

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



Website Of The Month

APRS-IS VHF Propagation Maps

<http://www.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/ham/aprs/>

APRS-IS servers gather information from networks of VHF and HF Amateur Radio packet stations. This information from the packet radio network is gatewayed into the Internet and made available as a constant stream of real-time data from a set of network servers.

Packet radio stations provide two bits of information that are useful for studying propagation. A station's latitude and longitude is typically transmitted with each data packet, pinpointing the transmitter's location. Also included in packet radio transmissions is the path, a list of hops between stations, that a message takes before reaching an Internet gateway. By saving the location of each station, we can use that information to determine the distance and direction between hops in the packet path. There are a sufficient number of packet radio stations on VHF frequencies in much of Europe and North America (typically on 144.39 MHz) to show real-time propagation over large portions of these continents.

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

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

ARES Report—Jim Russell, NQ5L

The July ARES meeting program was an excellent presentation by Galen Helmkamp (WA0YVQ) on Go Kits. One of the main things we can do to be prepared for an emergency deployment is to have all of the things we are likely to need in one place, in one box (or a collection of boxes). That way we don't have to spend time getting our supplies, radios, etc. together before we can be effective. Even more, we don't leave behind some important item. Galen covered all of the basics, and there were show and tell kits by Galen, Tom, N5TW, and Jim, NQ5L.

So far, the year has been "slow" and that is a good thing. We continue with training and preparing. The Sunday night net (8 PM on 146.64 repeated) is a good place to practice net procedures and get acquainted with some of the basic training for ARES. The weekend for the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is October 7 and 8. Our goal this year is to operate with as much and many different kinds of communications methods as possible. It is shaping up as a fun event as well as a very practical training exercise.

Reminders. The monthly meeting is on August 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.

Jim Russell, E.C.
NQ5L

Editor's QRM

Howdy folks,

Short newsletter this month because I am simply out of time with all of the preparations I am making for the Texas VHF-FM Society meeting at Summerfest. Next month is your chance to contribute to this newsletter and let your fellow club members know about what you've been up to. Show us your ham shack or describe the new antenna you just built. Pictures are worth a thousand words. Let's hear from you.

Hope to see you at Summerfest...

73 de na6m

WCARES Meetings, 2nd Thursday - 7:00 PM

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

WCARC Repeater: 146.640 MHz, 162.2 PL

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,

I'm sorry I don't have much time to write this month. In fact, I will have to miss the meeting because I am on the road in West Texas, installing HF radio and repeater systems for TxDOT.

I hope to see all of you next month.

In Service...

Paul, KE5ZW

IMPORTANT

AUSTIN SUMMERFEST INFORMATON

For those of you who haven't 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 — August, 2006

TARA Grid Dip Shindig	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 5
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 5
	to 2359Z, Aug 6
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 5
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 5
	to 0600Z, Aug 6
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 5
	to 1800Z, Aug 6
RSGB RoPoCo 2	0700Z-0900Z, Aug 6
SARL HF Phone Contest	1300Z-1630Z, Aug 6
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 9
	& 0330Z-0530Z, Aug 9
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 12
	to 2359Z, Aug 13
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 12
	to 0400Z, Aug 13
	& 1600Z-2359Z, Aug 13
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Aug 19
	& 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 19
	& 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 20
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 19
	to 2400 local, Aug 20
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 19
	to 0600Z, Aug 20
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 19
	to 0700Z, Aug 20
	& 1300Z, Aug 20
	to 0200Z, Aug 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 21
ALARA Contest	0600Z, Aug 26
	to 1159Z, Aug 27
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 26
	to 2200Z, Aug 27
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z, Aug 26
	to 1200Z, Aug 27
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 26
	to 1200Z, Aug 27
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 26
	to 1159Z, Aug 27
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 26
	to 0400Z, Aug 27
SARL HF CW Contest	1300Z-1600Z, Aug 27
Kentucky QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 27
	to 0400Z, Aug 28

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