

WCARC NEWS

September 2006

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

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WCARC Officers

President
Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

Vice-President
TBD

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

August Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2006

WCARC Vice-President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, called the meeting to order and welcomed a guest, Mark Coladonato. 30 responded to the roll call while 31 signed the check-in sheet. The meeting minutes for July were approved by the members.

Treasurer's Report — Jon Boles—K5AEM

Jon presented the Treasurer's report and noted he has not yet received a reimbursement from Heritage Gardens. Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, followed up by saying he'd heard the club will receive the full \$150 refund because of the rain-out on Field Day. Also announced was the approach of the fourth quarter, so members should be preparing to pay their dues. Finally, it was noted that any donations of cash or goods to ARES was greatly appreciated. The Treasurer's report was then approved by the members.

July, 2006

Beginning Balance:	\$3,106.73
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 379.46
Expenditures:	\$ 18.36
Ending Balance:	\$3,467.83

ARES Funds Available:	\$1,305.08
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,162.75

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	67	68
Family	18	18
Honorary	3	3
Total	88	89
Total Persons		108

WCARES Report — Jim Russell, NQ5L

Jim said that the July meeting covered Go Kits and he also noted that a tropical storm was approaching the Gulf. The next meeting will be at Round Rock Fire Station #6 on Thursday at 7 PM.

Repeater Report — Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom reported that the club repeater (146.64 MHz, tone of 162.2 Hz) is working well. He reported that there had been a repeater tour the previous weekend with about a half dozen in attendance.

DX Report & Contests — Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom informed the group that two new countries had been created and added to the DXCC list: Montenegro (formerly part of Serbia, and Yugoslavia before that) and Swains Island (American Samoa, Pacific Ocean). More DXCC entities are expected to be added under new rules soon. There was no contest report.

Old Business

Field Day

Dick Foster, W5TA, gave an update on the Port-A-Potty that had been rented for Field Day. It was not known whether it stayed through the month or had been returned.

Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, reported that future Field Day sites are being considered. One option considered is to approach the county about setting up at Williamson County's maintenance facility on Inner Loop near Mark Stennett's repeater. Bob also said his house could be used again, as it was this year. A public spot is preferred, though, so the first of those options might be better. It provides more public visibility as well as more points in the contest.

Mark Stennett, NA6M, has DVDs with video and photos from this year's Field Day. They are free for the asking.

New Business

National Wildlife Refuge Week

Cecil Turquette, K5YQF, revisited an idea he had discussed about participating in an event

August Meeting Minutes continued...

celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week (October 8-14). He reported that he put an ad about the event in QST using WCARC's name and call sign, with permission granted by the Club's president. He fulfilled the president's requirement of informing the Club by announcing it at this meeting. Anyone interested in participating or providing equipment during the event may contact Cecil.

New Meeting Location

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, opened discussion about finding a new location for the WCARC monthly meetings. The Wesleyan Retirement home will begin renovation in 6 to 12 months and a new location for the meetings will be required. He said that the Cedar Park EOC and Fire Station are open on the first Thursday of the month. So is the Round Rock Library but it has steep fees. Another possibility is the site of the WCARES meeting, Round Rock Fire Station #6, with a rearrangement of meeting nights to accommodate room availability. Other ideas included the County EOC, sheriff's office, church buildings, high schools, and restaurants. Location, fees, space, and available nights were issues discussed. Dallas asked members to find more potential meeting locations.

Summerfest

Summerfest was to be held August 4-5 and exhibitors were advised to park in the garage's lower level where easy access to the hotel was provided. Programs and the swap fest were also discussed.

Program - Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

The program for August was Soft Rock software defined radio (SDR) and was provided by Bill Tracey, KD5TFD.

Refreshments

The refreshments volunteer for September is Bob Farmer, W9BF.

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

Texas Mission of Mercy — Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

For the third time, a multitude of volunteers will gather their collective talents to hold a Texas Mission of Mercy Event, in Williamson County on November 10th and 11th.

Texas Mission of Mercy, TMoM, in partnership with the Texas Dental Association, the Smiles Foundation, and volunteers, of Williamson County will attempt to provide emergent and primary dental care to over 1,200 Williamson County residents that don't have access to oral health care. Plus, they will be doing hearing screening.

Last October the Highland Lakes/Burnet Co. ARES group helped with a TMoM event that provided dental care to approximately 700 people. Like the up coming Williamson County event, theirs was for two days and will require at least two six-hour shifts per day.

They provided the equivalent of 42 hams serving for six hours each (some did multiple shifts). The hams came from the Highland Lakes Amateur Radio Club and the Sun City Amateur Radio Society.

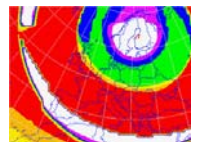
Dick Lenning has volunteered to be our Assistant Emergency Coordinator, AEC, to meet with the TMoM staff and coordinate our rolls in this event. We have two months to coordinate getting approximately 60 shifts filled and since TMoM will attempt to serve 500 additional patients we may need more Hams.

To get this many Hams, Williamson County - Amateur Radio Emergency Service, WC-ARES, will use the TMoM's event to simulate an ARESMAT event and request additional Ham Radio Operators from the surrounding ARES groups.

see Mission...page 4

Website Of The Month

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



High-Frequency (HF) Ionospheric Communications Analysis and Prediction Software.

Free professional HF prediction program from NTIA/ITS, originally developed for Voice of America (VOA). This guide should get you well started with VOACAP.

**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 and more...

ARES REPORT

The August ARES meeting program was a review of a paper prepared by Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer entitled "What ARES Hams Should Do". Some of his fundamental premises include that emergencies are local events; everyone in the disaster is a victim of some sort; communications failures are fundamental to a disaster; and disasters result in the loss of organizational planning and infrastructure (including amateur radio).

The purpose of ARES is to prepare ourselves for the eventual emergency or even disaster. Our monthly meetings are a mix of training and practical experience, including the occasional building project. We invite your participation at the level you can handle. We have positions open for those who want to really dig in, and others can only participate on a very limited scale. But all are welcome.

The date for our annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is October 14. 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. We will find useful tasks for anyone who wants to participate.

Reminders. The monthly meeting is on September 14 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,

I wanted to take a moment to thank Paul Gilbert for taking on the task of president for the club this year. I know we all understand that work does get in the way now and then.

From the WCARC Bylaws:

3.06 A vacancy occurring in any office except the President shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee as soon as practicable. The Vice-President shall become President should a vacancy occur in the President of the WCARC. All appointments by the Executive Committee due to a vacancy are for the un-expired term of the office.

Congratulations go to Bob Thompson. The executive committee will come up with a new vice president for the remainder of the 2006 term. 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,

It is with great regret that I must step down as President of WCARC.

I am returning to school to take a class at Austin Community College that will be held on Tues and Thurs evenings through the middle of December.

Obviously, that will prevent me from fulfilling my duties as President of WCARC.

I have been honored and enjoyed being the President of WCARC for this short period of time.

WCARC is a vibrant and growing club that fulfills the mission of Amateur Radio in a grand manner.

I hope to be able to participate in activities as time permits and I wish all well.

If I understand it correctly, with my stepping down, the Presidents office will transfer to the Vice-President, Bob Thompson, W5VGJ.

Again, I wish all well and I appreciate to have had this opportunity to lead the club.

In Service,

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

In Other News...

WA7BNM Contest Calendar — September, 2006

All Asian DX Contest, Phone 0000Z, Sep 2
to 2400Z, Sep 3

Russian RTTY WW Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Sep 2

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0400Z-0429Z, Sep 2
0430Z-0459Z, Sep 2
0500Z-0529Z, Sep 2
0530Z-0600Z, Sep 2

RSGB SSB Field Day 1300Z, Sep 2
to 1300Z, Sep 3

IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB 1300Z, Sep 2
to 1259Z, Sep 3

AGCW Straight Key Party 1300Z-1600Z, Sep 2

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest 1100Z-1700Z, Sep 3

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint 2300Z, Sep 4
to 0300Z, Sep 5

ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Sep 5

Int'l G3ZQS Mem. Straight Key Cont. 2300Z, Sep 8
to 2300Z, Sep 10

WAE DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Sep 9
to 2359Z, Sep 10

Swiss HTC QRP Sprint 1300Z-1900Z, Sep 9

ARRL September VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 9
to 0300Z, Sep 11

SOC Marathon Sprint 1800Z-2400Z, Sep 9

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 10

Tennessee QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 10
to 0100Z, Sep 11

ARCI End of Summer Digital Sprint 2000Z-2400Z, Sep 10

YLRL Howdy Days 1400Z, Sep 12
to 0200Z, Sep 14

FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend 0000Z, Sep 15
to 2400Z, Sep 17

SARL VHF/UHF Contest 1600Z, Sep 15
to 1600Z, Sep 16
1600Z, Sep 16
to 1000Z, Sep 17

ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest 0600 local, Sep 16
to 2400 local, Sep 17

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW 1200Z, Sep 16
to 1200Z, Sep 17

South Carolina QSO Party 1300Z, Sep 16
to 2100Z, Sep 17

QRP Afield 1500Z-2100Z, Sep 16

Washington State Salmon Run 1600Z, Sep 16
to 0700Z, Sep 17
1600Z-2400Z, Sep 17

QCWA Fall QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 16
to 1800Z, Sep 17

North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 17

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0300Z, Sep 18
1900 local -
2300 local, Sep 18

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Sep 21

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 23
to 2400Z, Sep 24

Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB 1200Z, Sep 23
to 1200Z, Sep 24

Texas QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 23
to 0200Z, Sep 24
1400Z-2000Z, Sep 24

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest (144) 1600Z-1900Z, Sep 23

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest (432) 1900Z-2100Z, Sep 23

UBA ON Contest, CW 0600Z-1000Z, Sep 24

Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 25

222 MHz Fall Sprint 1900 local -
2300 local, Sep 26

CIS DX Contest 1200Z, Sep 30
to 1200Z, Oct 1

Arkansas QSO Party 1600Z, Sep 30 to
0600Z, Oct 1
1800Z, Oct 1
to 0200Z, Oct 2

FISTS Coast to Coast Contest 1800Z, Sep 30
to 1800Z, Oct 1

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

Mission continued...

We will try to give each volunteer as much information about their assignment prior to the event but everybody has to remain flexible as assignments may change. The current list of assignments and volunteers are posted on the WC-ARES web site along with a list of frequencies to be used.

http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_friday_morning.html

http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_friday_afternoon.html

http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_saturday_morning.html

http://www.wc-ares.org/tmom_event_saturday_afternoon.html

73 Dallas, KD4HNX