

WCARC NEWS

October 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

Bob Farmer, W9BF

Secretary

Tim Stevens, KD5WML

Treasurer

Jon Boles, K5AEM

WCARC Staff

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Newsletter Editor

Mark Stennett, NA6M

Webmaster

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

Guest Speaker Committee

VP - Bob Farmer, W9BF, Chair-
man

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Redoutey, N5KF

Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

September Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2006

WCARC President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, welcomed attendees to the September meeting and two new members were recognized: Ted Walker, KJ7V, and Nicholas Rooch, KE5JXL. 34 members answered the roll call. The previous meeting's minutes were accepted by the membership.

Treasurer's Report — Jon Boles—K5AEM

Jon Boles, K5AEM. The treasurer's report was approved by the members.

June, 2006

Beginning Balance:	\$3,682.90
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 185.00
Expenditures:	\$ 15.67
Ending Balance:	\$3,637.16
ARES Funds Available:	\$1,325.08
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,312.08

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	68	68
Family	18	18
Honorary	3	3
Total	89	89
Total Persons		110

WCARES Report — Jim Russell, NQ5L

The good news for ARES is there haven't been any hurricanes with a less active season than feared. Preparations are underway for the Simulated Emergency test (SET) which is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th. Multiple modes of communication are being planned and more information will be covered in the upcoming two ARES meetings. The next meeting will be in Round Rock at Fire Station #6 on Thursday at 7 PM.

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. Everyone is welcome to use it.

DX Report & Contests — Tom Whiteside, N5TW

The site of the January 2007 DX-pedition will be held from the Lakshadweep Islands (VU7) off the coast of India. This is a very rare opportunity. More information can be found here at

<http://www.vu7.in>

RL VHF QSO Party occurs this weekend, 1 PM, Saturday 9/9 - 10 PM, Sunday 9/10.

Texas QSO Party 9 AM - 9 PM, Saturday 9/23 & a few hours on Sunday 9/24. Includes some mobile operators roaming the state.

Old Business

New Meeting Place

Harvey Henning, N0AJP spoke with John Sneed, head of the EOC at the Sheriff's office, who indicated the Club could not meet there this year. Club members should continue to scout out candidate sites to be used for WCARC meetings when the club moves from the Wesleyan Retirement Home.

Field Day

Dick Foster, W5TA, presented a summary of contest results from Field Day. Based on points of 5048 and statistics from the previous year, Dick expects WCARC to place well in this year's competition. Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, said that he has secured the use of a 70 foot boom truck for the mounting of antennas at next year's Field Day.

New Business

2006 TMoM - Texas Mission of Mercy:

Dick Lenning, KE5AGG, announced plans to support the 2006 Texas Mission of Mercy free dental clinic at the Dell Diamond on Friday-Saturday, November 10-11th. He is looking for radio-equipped volunteers to man a number of stations around the Diamond in anticipation of providing service to approximately 1200 patients in two days. Jim Russell, NQ5L, added that is an

September Meeting Minutes continued...

excellent opportunity to gain practice for communication efforts often required during large scale emergency relief operations. For more information visit:

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

Brenham Swap Meet

Bob Thomson, W5VGJ, announced a Swap Meet was being held in Brenham, rain or shine, on October 21st, the week after the SET.

Outlaw 100

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, reminded meeting attendees that the Brenham Swap meet conflicts with the Outlaw 100, which will be staffed by volunteers from WCARC and also held October 21st. More information can be found at: <http://www.wc-ares.org/index.html>

Women's Adventure Race

Jim Mischel, KB7UQD, reminded members that WCARC was providing communications for the Women's Adventure Race to be held at the YMCA camp on 183 on Sunday 9/10.

Club President/Vice-President

Former Vice-President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, is taking over the position of President for the remainder of the year while former President Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, attends classes. Bob Farmer, W9BF, will serve as Vice-President.

Fall Picnic

Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, opened discussion about the Fall Picnic. The afternoon of October 14th, after the SET, was selected.

Refreshments

Jim Russell, NQ5L, volunteered to provide refreshments at the October meeting.

Program - Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

The program for September is Batteries and Recharging by Dick Foster, W5TA.

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

FCC Launches New Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau: The FCC has formally launched its new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/>. The PSHSB will assume some functions that had been under the umbrella of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), where the Amateur Radio Service will remain. WTB Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division Chief Michael J. Wilhelm, WS6BR, has assumed a role within the new bureau, however. "The events of September 11, 2001, and last year's hurricane season underscored America's dependence on an effective national telecommunications infrastructure," the Commission said. "The new bureau will build on the Commission's longstanding commitment to meet the needs of public safety by promoting robust, reliable and resilient communications services in times of emergency." Addressing interoperability issues will be a part of that process, Acting Bureau Chief Ken Moran told the Commission September 26.

The PSHSB is responsible for the combined public safety-related functions previously spread among other bureaus and offices. It will include Policy, Public Communications Outreach and Operations and Communications Systems Analysis divisions. Wilhelm will serve as deputy chief of the PSHSB's Policy Division. The Public Communications Outreach and Operations Division will operate the FCC's Communications Center and the High Frequency Direction Finding Center.

Some observers had speculated that Amateur Radio would be shifted to the PSHSB, thus removing it from the WTB's market-based approach to regulation. Moving some of the WTB's current responsibilities to the new bureau could nonetheless speed up the process of moving Amateur Radio-related proceedings through the Commission.

The FCC Order setting up the new bureau is on the FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-35A1.pdf.

Source: The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 39 September 29, 2006

Website Of The Month



<http://www.ubuntu.com>

Got an old computer laying around collecting dust? Download Ubuntu for free and put it to work. Ubuntu is an easy to install, easy to use Debian Linux package. There are plenty of Linux based amateur radio programs available as you can see by the link below.

Linux HAM-HOWTO, Amateur Radio. <http://www.radio.org/linux/>

**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 — Jim Russell, NQ5L

The September ARES meeting program was given by Tom White-side and included information on using the Winlink e-mail over radio facility. We were shown how the general system works, and some of the details of using this digital mode. Members were given the chance to use one of the operating systems at the meeting to become more familiar with the operation and how to send and receive e-mails with this technology. Our use is continuing to expand as more and more hams develop this capability.

We have a number of events coming up that will give hams practice in operating during either a public service event, a simulated emergency, or a major medical event. The first of these is our annual Simulated Emergency Test on October 14. The exact time won't be announced but will start sometime Saturday morning and be completed by noon or so.

In addition to the SET, our help has been requested at the Outlaw 100 bicycle event sponsored by Round Rock on October 21. This gives operators a chance to work either at net control or in one of the mobiles. The good news is that the City provides the vehicles and the fuel; we provide the radio and mag mount antenna. If you are interested, check out the ARES web site at www.wc-ares.org, or contact Dallas, KD4HNX.

Another very large event, probably the largest yet held in Texas is coming in November. On November 10 and 11, the Texas Mission of Mercy will be conducting a free dental care clinic for those who can not afford to pay for such services. They expect to process 1200 people through this clinic in the two day period. We will be providing communications services during this event, along with hams from Sun City, Burnet, and Austin. This is a large event and will simulate a mass medical emergency. Actually, we probably shouldn't use the word "simulate" because this is for real. More information can be found on the ARES web site at www.wc-ares.org, or contact Dick Lenning, KE5AGG.

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.

Reminders. The monthly meeting is on October 12 at 7:00 PM at Round Rock Fire Station 6 near the Dell Diamond. Talk in on the "64" repeater if you need directions.

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.

Japanese University Launches Amateur Radio CubeSat

Hokkaido Institute of Technology's HIT-SAT satellite has joined several other CubeSats carrying Amateur Radio payloads in space. The tiny satellite launched successfully September 23 (Japan Standard Time) from the Uchinoura Space Center in Japan, and its CW telemetry was copied around the world on the satellite's initial orbits. Over the weekend, HIT-SAT's CW telemetry was halted as a power-saving measure during attitude control procedures, and it remained silent after attitude control should have ended. But on September 27, ground controllers were able to restore the CW telemetry.

"Although the cause was still unknown, we hope the transmission of CW continues normally," the HIT-SAT team said on its Web site. "We appreciate the cooperation and help of radio amateurs all over the world. Please hear the beat of our satellite's heart." HIT-SAT's FM packet transmitter has been operating normally from the time the spacecraft reached orbit, and ground controllers have been able to obtain telemetry data from it.

Like other university-built CubeSats, HIT-SAT was constructed using mostly off-the-shelf parts. The 1200 bps FM packet downlink is on 437.425 MHz, while the CW telemetry downlink is on 437.275 with a transmitter power of 100 mW. The CubeSat uses a VHF uplink. The HIT-SAT team is seeking reception reports, including audio files. The satellite's call sign is JR8YJT.

Once it's fully operational, HIT-SAT will permit Earth station operators to request certain parameters by transmitting DTMF commands on the 145.980 MHz uplink. The satellite can report back time/date, temperature and power supply voltages and thank the Earth station by call sign. Only HIT-SAT ground station controllers can access the satellite at this point, however.

The diminutive satellite is a project of the Hokkaido Institute of Technology's ham radio club. HIT-SAT hitchhiked on the M-V-7 vehicle that carried the Solar-B satellite into orbit. The satellite is in a sun synchronous orbit with an orbital altitude of 250 km at perigee and 600 km at apogee and an inclination of 97.79 degrees. A 12-cm square cube, HIT-SAT weighs 2.2 kg. AMSAT has not yet assigned HIT-SAT an OSCAR designation.

Source: The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 39 September 29, 2006

In Other News...

WA7BNM Contest Calendar — October, 2006

UBA ON Contest, 6m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 1
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 3
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
432 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 4
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 5
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 6
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 7 to 0800Z, Oct 8
International HELL-Contest 80m	1400Z-1600Z, Oct 7
40m	0900Z-1100Z, Oct 8
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 7
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 7 to 2159Z, Oct 8
PRO CW Contest	1600Z-1800Z, Oct 7 0600Z-0800Z, Oct 8 0600Z-1000Z, Oct 8
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0000Z-1000Z, Oct 8
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB	1400Z, Oct 10 to 0200Z, Oct 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 11
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Oct 14 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 14 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 15
ARRL EME Contest 50-1296 MHz - Part 2	0000Z, Oct 14 to 2359Z, Oct 15
Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1300 local, Oct 14
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 14 to 0800Z, Oct 15
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 14
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 14 to 0500Z, Oct 15 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 15 1700Z-2100Z, Oct 14
FISTS Fall Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 15
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 15
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 15
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 16
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 21 to 2400Z, Oct 22
ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z, Oct 21 to 2400Z, Oct 22
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 21 to 1459Z, Oct 22
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 21 to 2359Z, Oct 22
50 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Oct 21 to 0300Z, Oct 22
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 22 to 0100Z, Oct 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 28 to 2400Z, Oct 29
eXtreme CW WorldWide Challenge	0000Z, Oct 28 to 2359Z, Oct 29
10-10 Int. Fall Contest	0001Z, Oct 28 to 2359Z, Oct 29

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

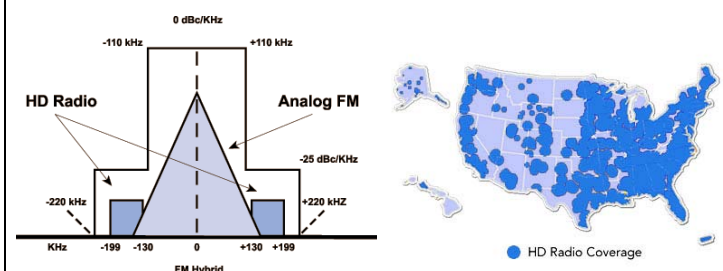
- 1 20 Amp Power Supply - N5TW, Tom Whiteside - 20-Nov-05

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



It's new, it's digital. It's HD Radio. This technology is a hybrid model that will ease the transition from analog to all digital broadcast radio. Many stations in our area are running this new system on both AM and FM broadcast transmitters. Tune in next month for a more in depth article on the subject.