



# WCARC NEWS

January 2007

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

#### Public information Officer

Virgil Buell, KD5KQV

#### Newsletter Editor

Mark Stennett, NA6M

#### Webmaster

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

#### Guest Speaker Committee

VP - Bob Farmer, W9BF,  
Chairman

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Redoutey, N5KF

#### Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

## December Meeting Minutes

### December 7, 2006

Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, opened the meeting by asking about visitors. Two responded: Michael, who is looking into ham radio, and Dennis Featherstone, KE5KZX, who has had his license for about 6 weeks. 23 in attendance answered the roll call while 25 signed the roster. Last month's meeting minutes were approved by the members without changes.

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

Jon Boles, K5AEM, provided the report, which was approved by the members. Jon also encouraged members to send ARRL fees through the Club. When ARRL membership fees are sent this way, the Club keeps \$3 (renewal)/\$15 (new membership) of the fees for local use.

Beginning Balance:	\$3,410.28
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 80.00
Expenditures:	\$ 34.02
Ending Balance:	\$3,647.16
ARES Funds Available:	\$1,325.08
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,322.08

### Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	70	70
Family	20	20
Honorary	3	3
Total	93	93
Total Persons		119

### WCARES Report - Jim Russell, NQ5L

WCARES participated in the Texas Mission of Mercy in November. Over 600 informal messages were passed through ham communications, which does not include the traffic on FRS radios. Dick Lenning, KE5AGG, said 1179 patients received more than 4400 dental procedures during the 2-day event. The next WCARES meeting will be in Round Rock at Fire Station #6 on Thursday at 7 PM. The group will begin looking at how ARES radio resources are used as part of ICS (Incident Command System).

### Repeater Report - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

The club repeater on 146.64 MHz, with a tone of 162.2 Hz, is working well. Tom said he is willing to be the trustee again for the coming year.

### DX Report & Contests - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

There are currently DXpeditions in progress in American Samoa and in Lakshadweep (VU7) on the west coast of India. Also, there will be a 160 meter CQ contest in January. Bob Farmer, W9BF, added that there is a 10 meter contest this weekend. Contestants can participate for 36 hours of the 48-hour event. Low power and small antenna operations work well and 10 meter conditions have been improving. A recent solar flare may have an impact on skip. Jon Boles, K5AEM, said SPAR (Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio) is sponsoring a Winter Field Day on January 13th and Straight Key Night is New Years Eve. Dick Foster, W5TA, said there is another winter contest called FYBO (Freeze Your Buns Off) for people who like to work in the cold. (Google produces a fair amount of information about this contest).

### OLD BUSINESS

#### WCARC Swap Fest - Rick Trommer, W5NR

Rick met with the County Commissioners who said that events must be insured now. The required insurance would be \$750 a day, which is cost-prohibitive for the Club. However, the Show Barn in Georgetown can be used for \$200 and the Club received a waiver on insurance for this year, so the event will proceed as planned in that facility on February 4th, Super Bowl Sunday. Admission will be \$10 per car. Sellers need to bring their own tables (there will be no swapping permitted in the parking lot). Doors open at 7 AM and the event will run from 8 AM to 2 PM. Volunteers will be needed to handle parking and talk-in. VE testing will take place at the event.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### N5TT Call Sign - Jim Hester, K5HTK

Jim spoke to Bobby Pestrosky about assigning his call sign N5TT to WCARC in memoriam. Jim will contact the FCC about the transfer. He also said that the Midland Amateur Radio Club Winter Swap Meet is March 10th and the event is worth the drive.

#### Election of WCARC Officers

The members chose to retain the current line-up of officers to serve through 2007.

#### Field Day 2007 - Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

Although early, Bob said that Field Day approaches

## December Meeting Minutes continued...

quickly and he discussed planning for next year's event. He has received feedback that members liked the location used this year and it will be considered again in 2007. In May, he would like to see a Field Day work crew assembled to perform preparation activities for the event. This includes tuning antennas and choosing placement. A truck volunteered for the event has a 70-foot boom and also has an extension that can take the reach to 110 feet. Tom Whiteside, N5TW, volunteered to chair the event.

### Equipment List

Mark Stennett, NA6M, suggested a review of the Club's equipment and the list was reviewed.

### Refreshments

As assigned by Bob Farmer, W9BF in October December - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX January - Cecil Turquette, K5YQF

### Program for December

Mark Stennett, NA6M - Moon Bounce using a Portable Dish.

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

## WCARES Meetings, 2nd Thursday - 7:00 PM

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

## Web Site Of The Month

<http://www.wetnet.ampr.org/>

### Washington Experimenters TCP/IP Network

**WETNET** is administered by the Puget Sound Amateur Radio TCP/IP Group, which consists of amateur radio operators who are interested in TCP/IP and Ham Radio. Our interests also include [APRS](#), [amateur satellite](#) operations and just about anything involving computers and/or radios.

## 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**

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-six (56) scholarships for the academic year 2007 - 2008 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Eleven are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-two (42) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$3000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Non-USA residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. Clubs, especially those in California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin (areas of preferred residence for some of the scholarships), are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2007 from:

FAR Scholarships  
 Post Office Box 831  
 Riverdale, MD 20738

Applications are also available electronically upon request to  
[Scholarships@Farweb.org](mailto:Scholarships@Farweb.org).

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

## Interference on 441 MHz — Mark Stennett, NA6M

John Benedict, KE5RS called me on 23 December to report hearing a wandering interfering signal on the output of his 441.600 MHz repeater. On 24 December, John, Renee (N5RNA) and I set out to find the pesky visitor. Using a UHF handheld radio and a 6 element yagi antenna as well as a pocket full of attenuator pads, we triangulated the signal as coming from one of the two 500 foot towers at SE Inner Loop and CR 110 in Georgetown. Since I work for the company that owns one of these towers it was real easy to eliminate my stuff from the list of suspects, leaving the other tower which is owned by the County. Calls to the number listed for the tower owner have not yet been returned, probably due to the year end holidays. The signal drifts between 440.400 and 441.900 MHz and has a 120 Hz hum on it. It can be heard up to 20 miles away from the tower using a typical mobile installation.

**WCARC Repeater: 146.640 MHz, 162.2 PL**

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

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

## In Other News...

### WA7BNM Contest Calendar — January, 2007

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	600Z-1900Z, Jan 1 (144) 1900Z-2100Z, Jan 1 (432)
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 2
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 6 to 1500Z, Jan 7
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 6 to 2400Z, Jan 7
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 6 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 7
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 7
Hunting Lions in the Air	0000Z, Jan 13 to 2400Z, Jan 14
070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 13
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 13 to 2359Z, Jan 14
SPAR Winter Field Day	1200 local, Jan 13 to 1200 local, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 13
N. American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 13 to 0600Z, Jan 14
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 14
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 14
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 14
NAQCC Strt. Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 18
LZ Open Contest	0400Z-1200Z, Jan 20
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 20 to 1200Z, Jan 21
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 20 to 1200Z, Jan 21
N. American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 20 to 0600Z, Jan 21
ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 20 to 0400Z, Jan 22
Run for the Bacon QRP Cont.	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 27 to 2359Z, Jan 28
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 27 to 1800Z, Jan 28
SARL Youth for Ham Radio	0700Z-1100Z, Jan 27
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 27 to 1200Z, Jan 28
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 27 to 1300Z, Jan 28

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

### WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

#### OWNED EQUIPMENT

Reviewed December 7, 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

### Swap Net

Thursday nights at 2200 local time, the 147.080 and 444.525 repeaters are carrying a swap net hosted by the N6ICW 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.

### NEW UHF Repeater On The Air — Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

Those in the Austin Metro area, give 442.650, PL 114.8 a try. It also has P-25 with a NAC of 114. The repeater is a Motorola Quantar at 300 feet, 110 watts, 1 1/4 inch feedline and a Comprod UHF, 6DB gain antenna. It is located in the Cedar Park, North West Austin area off Hwy 183. I have drive tested it and with a 5 watt HT, I get 10 miles KT with no trouble. Let me know how it covers. It is an open repeater and will have back-up power soon.

Paul, ZW

### Upgrades to the 147.080 and 444.525 Georgetown Repeaters

A new RLC3 repeater controller is installed and running. This controller offers 8 ports and replaces the RLC4 which only had 4. Improvements include a full time dedicated VOIP connection to Sacramento, CA by way of a JPS Enterprises NXU-2 and an automatic event scheduler. Other improvements in the works include a 2 meter remote base which will allow the system to bridge other area repeaters in order to extend coverage and service.