



# WCARC NEWS

February 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

## January Meeting Minutes

### January 4, 2007

Bob Farmer, W9BF, the Club's Vice President, brought the January 2007 meeting to order and wished the members a happy new year. Danny Turner, N5PAO, of Taylor, was visiting and Tom Smith, N6VMJ, is a new member. 38 members answered the roll call while 39 names were on the sign-in sheet. The previous meeting's minutes were accepted by the members.

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

Jon Boles, K5AEM, provided the report, which was approved by the members.

Beginning Balance:	\$3,456.26
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 135.00
Expenditures:	\$ 28.49
Ending Balance:	\$3,562.77
ARES Funds Available:	\$1,325.08
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,237.69

### Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	70	70
Family	20	20
Honorary	3	3
Total	93	93
Total Persons		29

### WCARES Report - Jim Russell, NQ5L

The next meeting of WCARES will be used to review the previous year's activities - what went right and what could be better. Also, the state of Texas is holding a major disaster drill on February 21st and 22nd. The ARES meeting will be in Round Rock at Fire Station #6 on Thursday at 7 PM.

### Repeater Report - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

The club repeater on 146.64 MHz, with a tone of 162.2 Hz, is working well.

### DX Report & Contests - Bob Farmer, W9BF

Bob reported that the Sovereign Military Order of Malta was on the air that day. Also, a successful DXpedition to Lakshadweep Island off the coast of India was underway, in December, and an international team will be there for January. On the contest front, there is an RTTY contest this coming weekend, sponsored by the ARRL, and

Tom Whiteside, N5TW, said there was a North American CW QSO party scheduled for the following week. SPAR (Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio) is sponsoring a Winter Field Day on January 13th. The Club newsletter has contest information every month.

### OLD BUSINESS

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

Jim provided an update on his discussion with Bob Petrosky, N5TT, about the future transfer of the call sign to the club. Bob has graciously provided documentation bequeathing the call sign to WCARC.

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

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, said he needed volunteers for talk-in duties for the WCARC Swap Fest and Rick Trommer, W5NR, reported that the location is the Show Barn in Georgetown's San Gabriel Park. The Swap Fest will run till 2 PM on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th, and the doors open for setup at 7 AM. The doors open to the public at 8 AM. Door prizes are coming in now and the ARRL has recognized the event and will also provide door prizes. Admission for those wanting to sell is \$10 per vehicle. Volunteers are needed for parking.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Interference at 440 MHz - Mark Stennett, NA6M

Mark discussed efforts to track down the source of interference to communications in the 440 MHz range. A signal is drifting up and down the dial from 440 to almost 442 MHz. The interference can be heard over various parts of Travis and Williamson counties. On Christmas Eve, Mark, Renee' Stennett (N5RNA), and John Benedict (KE5RS) spent a few hours driving around trying to hunt down the source. Their initial findings indicate that the source of the signal is very close to, of perhaps from, the vicinity of Mark's radio tower in southeast Georgetown. His tower's equipment does not seem to be involved but it is possible that the County's tower next to his is the source. Further action is planned.

*Editor's note... Williamson County checked their equipment and determined that they are not the source of the interfering signal. I did spend some more time driving around with my spectrum analyzer and it seems to peak in the area of CR 110 and SE Inner Loop in Georgetown. We need operators with UHF DF capabilities to help track this signal down.*

## January Meeting Minutes continued...

### Programming for 2007 - Bob Farmer, W9BF

Bob discussed ideas topics for 2007 and asked for feedback on member interest. Proposed topics included VHF/UHF, HF (general topic) and HF101 (how-to), Antennas (Modeling, Types, Construction), Propagation, Contests, Equipment Reviews/Kit Building, and Building of Modest Stations. Bob is also considering having a couple of members present a brief presentation about themselves at each meeting.

### Refreshments

February - Tom Whiteside, N5TW  
 March - Chris Williams, KE5FNX  
 April - Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ

### Program for January

Tom Whiteside, N5TW - Guided Tour through WinLink PMBO

*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.gsl.net/n9bor/n0hff.htm>

#### The Art & Skill of Radio Telegraphy

"For those who are interested in telegraphy, for those who would like to learn it, for those who love it, and for those who want to improve their skills in it."

### Join Us For Breakfast

WCARC Breakfast - Saturdays at 7:00AM  
 Village Inn Restaurant at Wolf Ranch  
 1007 West University  
 Georgetown, TX 78626

### WCARC Meetings, 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM

**Wesleyan Retirement Home**  
**1105 S. Church St.**  
**Georgetown, TX 78626**

### ARES REPORT January 2007

The January meeting consisted of a re-cap of 2006 and some advance planning for 2007. Our goal is always to practice, analyze, improve, then practice some more. Last year was no different.

One of our focuses this year is going to be on the Incident Command System as it relates to the National Incident Management System. Our training will include an emphasis on that along with good basic operating procedure.

We have finally completed all of the steps for registering with the State as a non-profit corporation. Now for the really important hurdle of getting recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) non-profit.

We are also learning more about the regional preparedness exercise coming up on February 21 and 22. This is a Weapons of Mass Destruction drill and will involve Williamson County, Georgetown, and Cedar Park (the City of Georgetown's participation isn't clear as of this date). Since this is during the week, we will probably be thin on volunteers, but it will be a great way to showcase amateur radio. We have been told we will be critical to the success of the event.

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 February 8 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

**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**

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 3
	to 2400Z, Feb 4
10-10 Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 3
	to 2359Z, Feb 4
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Feb 3
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3
YLRL YL-OM Contest, CW	1400Z, Feb 3
	to 0200Z, Feb 5
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 3
	to 0500Z, Feb 4
	1300Z, Feb 4
	to 0100Z, Feb 5
Mexico RTTY Int'l Contest	1800Z, Feb 3
	to 1759Z, Feb 4
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4
ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Feb 4
RSGB 80m Club Champ, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 6
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 10
	to 2400Z, Feb 11
Asia-Pac. Spring Sprint CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 10
KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 10
	to 1200Z, Feb 11
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 10
	to 1200Z, Feb 11
YLRL YL-OM Contest, SSB	1400Z, Feb 10
	to 0200Z, Feb 12
Br. Columbia QSO Challenge	1600Z, Feb 10
	to 0359Z, Feb 11
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 10
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz, CW	2100Z, Feb 10
	to 0100Z, Feb 11
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 11
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 12
	to 2400Z, Feb 16
NAQCC Str. Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 14
AGCW Semi-Auto Key Eve	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 14
RSGB 80m Club Champ, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 17
	to 2400Z, Feb 18
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Feb 19
RSGB 80m Club Champ, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 22
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 23
	to 2100Z, Feb 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 24
	to 2359Z, Feb 25
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 24
	to 1800Z, Feb 25
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 24
	to 1300Z, Feb 25
N. American QSO Party RTTY	1800Z, Feb 24
	to 0600Z, Feb 25
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 25
	1500Z-1700Z, Feb 25
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 25
	to 0300Z, Feb 26

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

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB****OWNED EQUIPMENT**

Reviewed December 7, 2006

**QTY—DESCRIPTION—LAST LOCATION—DATE****Tower Work**

1 Gin Pole - Rick Trommer—W5NR - 30-Jan-07  
 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

**HF 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

**VHF/UHF Antenas**

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 9673.

**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

**FCC Cites Amateur for failure to identify— [http://www.arrl.org/news/enforcement\\_logs/2007/0104.html](http://www.arrl.org/news/enforcement_logs/2007/0104.html)**

The Commission hands a Notice of Violation to KB3GRK for violating 47 C.F.R. § 97.119(a): "Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions. No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station."

Following the rules is important. One of the easiest ways to remember to ID on a repeater is to listen for the repeater ID itself.