



WCARC NEWS

March 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

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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

February Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2007

Club President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, opened the February 2007 meeting. Guests included Larry K2XG, grandfather of Chris KE5FNX, Mona, wife of Mel, KF6OZ, and guest speaker John Cruise. 40 members and visitors responded to the roll call. 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:	\$3,562.77
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 329.00
Expenditures:	\$ 91.11
Ending Balance:	\$3,800.66
ARES Funds Available:	\$1,270.97
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,529.69

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	46	46
Family	8	8
Honorary	3	3
Total	57	57
Total Persons		67

WCARES Report - Jim Russell, NQ5L

The ARES group has finally received the state-approved articles of incorporation as a Texas non-profit organization and Jim is now working on the federal application.....On February 21 and 22, the 9 county area surrounding Austin will participate in the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) WMD SET to test and train on agency interoperability. The exercise will result in agency responses to *simulated* attacks using Weapons of Mass Destruction. Those interested should contact Jim Russell or attend the next ARES meeting in Round Rock at Fire Station #6, Thursday at 7 PM.

Repeater Report - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

The club repeater on 146.64 MHz is working. It uses a tone of 162.2 Hz.

DX Report & Contests - John Warren NT5C

As is typical for winter, several DXpeditions are underway. There are operations in Burkina Faso in

West Africa, XT, and at Christmas Island. VU7 operations at Lakshadweep Islands (translated to mean 'hundred thousand islands') included 2 efforts, one in December was an all Indian expedition (VU7LD) and the second one, in January, was made up of an international crew (VU7RG, in memory of the former Indian Prime Minister and amateur radio operator, Rajiv Gandhi, who was VU2RG). A show of hands indicated that 3 or 4 people attending made contact with at least one of the two VU7 teams during those DXpeditions. Two new countries have been added to DXCC:

Montenegro and Swains Island. There will be a DXpedition to Swains Island in March or April with the call N8S, which should be fairly easy for those in Texas to work.....Dick Foster W5TA used Tom Whiteside's (N5TW) station to participate in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter Contest and made contact with Europe, Africa, Morocco and an island in the Pacific. In all, he made 905 contacts in 35 countries.....This coming weekend is the Freeze Your Back Side Off contest. Stations will be setting up at McKinney Falls State Park for those who would like to participate.

OLD BUSINESS

WCARC Swap Fest - Rick Trommer, W5NR

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 people can set up between 7 and 9 AM. The doors open to the public at 8 AM. Admission for those wanting to sell is \$10 per vehicle and sellers need to bring their own tables. Otherwise admissions is free. There will be door prizes including certificates, books, and more. VE testing will begin at 8:30 AM. ARRL registered VEs are invited to oversee the testing. Those wishing to bypass Morse Code testing, when seeking an instant upgrade, should wait till after February 23rd with the code requirement is withdrawn.

New Meeting Location -Tom Whiteside, N5TW

It appears we have use of the current location till about August. Afterward, a new meeting place will be needed. Tom asked if the Club would be interested in meeting at a restaurant like the Austin Club does. He asked for a show of hands from those present who would consider the idea. 17 voted in favor of the idea while 5 said they did not support that kind of meeting venue. Tom said he will put together a committee whose job would be to find prospective locations. Things to consider when looking for a new place would include size and acoustics. A screen and projector are already owned by the club and the ability to use the

February Meeting Minutes continued...

location for presentations is important. Other kinds of locations are also under consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Programming for 2007 - Bob Farmer, W9BF

Bob borrowed an idea from a letter in QST to suggest that two members talk about themselves at each meeting, prior to the program, so that the membership gets to know them better. He would like to pair up those who have been members less than 3 years with those he calls old timers. By giving such information, resources can be found for those would like assistance and the Club can be more knowledgeable about its members in general.

Refreshments

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

Program for February

John Cruise, radio operator for General George Patton in World war II

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

SolarCycle24.com

<http://www.solarcycle24.com/index.htm>

All of your solar and aurora needs in one place!

This site is jam packed with all sorts of solar information. Useful for keeping tabs on HF propagation.

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 —Jim Russell NQ5L

The major disaster drill for the CAPCOG area was conducted on February 21 and 22. The drill was centered on a scenario where an environmentalist terror group attacks the Austin Convention Center and surrounding areas with explosives. There was also a situation in Jarrel where two dead bodies were found with what was believed to be anthrax. Of course, this was all a drill.

We manned several locations including EOC's for Williamson County, Round Rock, Cedar Park (co-located with the county) and Georgetown. In addition, we had teams at all 3 county hospitals (Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor). We also had a team at the county 911 call center and, for a short time, at a fire station in both Cedar Park and Georgetown. The following operators participated in the drill activities. I apologize in advance if there are any errors, but this is the list I have:

W5TSN	NA5BD	KE5GJB	KE5HTD
KE5AGG	KE5LRC	KE5LVF	
W2MN	KE5RS		
K5HTK	N4IM		
KD5WML	KD6ZJH	AE5Q	
KD5BIY			
AA1PG			
KE5ITH	KE5CQL		
KD4HNX	W5TA		
N5EXY			
N5TW			
N0AJP			

As usual, we learned a great deal ourselves about our procedures. Overall, it was a great learning experience. We learned we have improved in some areas based on previous drills, and we learned some new things to improve. Some of our previous lessons weren't learned as well as they could have been, but we continue to improve. We got lots of praise at various locations and our contributions seem to be genuinely appreciated.

We have requests from the City of Round Rock for more information on our e-mail via radio capabilities and an interest from the County Health Department to add radio capability at their headquarters.

Thanks to all who participated, and to all who supported us in other ways.

Reminders. The monthly meeting is on March 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 25th of the Month prior to publication

In Other News...

WA7BNM Contest Calendar — March, 2007

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Mar 3
	0430Z-0459Z, Mar 3
	0500Z-0529Z, Mar 3
	0530Z-0600Z, Mar 3
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	2200Z-2359Z, Mar 3 (Low Band)
	0000Z-0159Z, Mar 4 (Low Band)
	0800Z-1159Z, Mar 4 (High Band)
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 6
AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 6
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 10 to 1000Z, Mar 11
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 10
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 10 to 0200Z, Mar 11
	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 11
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 10 to 1600Z, Mar 11
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11
UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 11
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 14
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 17
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Mar 17 (144)
	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 17 (432)
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 18
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Mar 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 19
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 26

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

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

147.080 Echolink Down—Mark Stennett NA6M

The echolink computer normally used for the 147.080 repeater has been reassigned temporarily to streaming audio duties for the HD2 signal on KINV. The computer that normally performed that function was pressed into service for the new programming on 104.3 which Univision is in the process of acquiring from Entercom. Expect service to return within the next week.

440 Interference Update—Mark Stennett NA6M

The interfering signal was identified as coming from the Lin TV tower on Rabbit Hill. Bob Ripley, W5EMC used a loop antenna to triangulate it. Further investigation isolated the problem to an amateur 420 link transmitter power amplifier that had decided to become an oscillator. Initially the amplifier was repaired but the problem returned so it was replaced.

Case closed.

FCC cites Georgetown resident for operating unlicensed FM radio station

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-270824A1.pdf

The FCC says that Robert Seamans is operating an unlicensed FM radio station at 90.1 MHz from his residence in Georgetown, TX. Seamans was issued a Notice of Unlicensed Operation on February 22nd. Some time in the evening on February 28th, the station went off the air.

Other unlicensed stations in the Austin area were also cited. See <http://www.fcc.gov/eb/FieldNotices/> for more details.