



WCARC NEWS

April 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

March Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2007

Club President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, and Club Vice President Bob Farmer, W9BF, opened the March 2007 meeting and John Rupprecht, K3NOQ, introduced himself as a visitor who is getting back into the hobby after 13 years. 32 responded to the roll call while 34 signed the roster. 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:	\$3,800.66
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 756.00
Expenditures:	\$ 359.28
Ending Balance:	\$4,197.38
ARES Funds Available:	\$1,270.97
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,926.41

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	46	55
Family	9	14
Honorary	3	3
Total	58	72
Total Persons		91

WCARES Report - Jim Russell, NQ5L

The CAPCOG Exercise was supported by more than 20 WCARES volunteers who staffed the various EOCs and hospitals in the area to provide radio communications if regular channels failed. In the exercise, the city of Austin and surrounding communities suffered numerous terrorist attacks employing simulated explosions, dirty bombs, and biological weapons. (The first 3 minutes of a City of Round Rock cable show describes the SET. It can be viewed on the Internet at the link below under "March" edition. There is no commentary about ham involvement though there are some shots from the EOC radio room--Tim, KD5WML). The next ARES meeting will be this coming Thursday at 7 PM at Round Rock Fire Station #6. Talk-in is on the 146.64 repeater. <http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/home/index.asp?page=1008>

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 - Bob Farmer, W9BF & John McColly, W5RQ

Bob Farmer, W9BF: There is a DXpedition of German hams currently at Norfolk Island, that is north of Australia.

John McColly, W5RQ: There have been a couple of DXpeditions to islands off the coast of India. One location needing a visit is Scarborough Reef. The Philippines, China, and Vietnam in the South China Sea, all want to claim it. It has been on the air 3 times since 1995. DXpedition members set up on scaffolding atop the reef and made radio contact for 10 days. BS7H was the call sign. Visit the following URL for information about previous DXpeditions to Scarborough Reef. <http://www.iglou.com/n4qn/sr/>

Contests: Sideband ARRL DX Contest is the current big contest. More on contests can be found in the back of the WCARC newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

WCARC Swap Fest - Rick Trommer, W5NR

There was a light turnout this year and the Show Barn is growing old for some. A newly opened center may be used next time as the Club hopes to have its not-for-profit status by then. Without that status, the daily rental is about \$1150. It's \$250 with a not-for-profit certificate. At this year's event, 150-160 people attended. \$220 was netted off cars and raffle ticket proceeds totaled \$496. \$516 went to the Club after expenses. The next Super Bowl will be February 3, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was introduced or discussed this month.

Refreshments

March - Tom Whiteside, N5TW
April - Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ

Member Profile

Jim Phillips, KD5UBT Introduced himself to the membership and spoke about his ham radio experience.

Program for March

Tom Chapman, KC9FOZ: The Boat Anchor that Changed Ham Radio .

March Meeting Minutes continued...

Program for April

John Warren, NT5C: DX

Minutes by the honorable club Secretary, Tim Stevens—KD5WML

City of Austin Turns on BPL

Thanks to observations by K5GP, we know that the City of Austin is now testing at least part of their Corinex BPL system in 78702. The BPL project manager has confirmed that about 50% of the system is lit up.

Any observation and reports on the extent of interference from the system will be appreciated. Observation techniques and noise measuring tools can be found on the ARRL BPL web at:

<http://p1k.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/measurements.html>

Initial reports indicate notching is evident in some of our bands, but not all. Independent reports will be correlated to assist the COA in determining the extent and effectiveness of their interference efforts.

Glen Reid, K5FX
BPL787

The ARRL Austin BPL Team

To learn more, join this Yahoo Group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bpl787/>

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

HamScope

<http://www.qsl.net/hamscope/>

HamScope is a multi-mode communications interface for amateur radio that supports: PSK31, RTTY, ASCII, MFSK16, PACKET and CW.

Hamscope has data links to a number of logging programs as well.

Join Us For Breakfast

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

ARES REPORT —Jim Russell, NQ5L

The March meeting reviewed the after action report for the WMD drill from February. The purpose of any drill is to learn from our mistakes, and we certainly had a few. It is always valuable to look at the things we did right to re-enforce those. It is also valuable to look at mistakes to correct them in the future.

The other item for the meeting was to show a video from Washington state. It covers the functions of ARES particularly in that state, and also introduces the idea that amateur radio brings three distinct characteristics to emergency communications:

- 1 — The people (as a resource to be used)
- 2 — Radio spectrum (we have the broadest possible range of frequencies available to us of any service short of the military)

Culture. The unique ability of hams to find ways to get the job done in spite of obstacles of all types is probably our greatest contribution. We have also started a dialog with the Williamson County and Cities Health District to add ARES radios and infrastructure for them. In the event of a major health emergency, they think this could be an invaluable asset. They saw what we did at the WMD drill, and have invited us to work with them. We started that process in March.

Reminders. The monthly meeting is on April 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.

Jim Russell, E.C.

NQ5L



A typical turn out for the Saturday morning WCARC breakfast at the Village Inn Restaurant, Wolf Ranch in Georgetown.

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**

WCARC Meetings, 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM

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

In Other News...

WA7BNM Contest Calendar — April, 2007

RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 3
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	1400Z, Apr 3 to 0200Z, Apr 5
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 6
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Apr 7 to 2359Z, Apr 15
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 7 to 2400Z, Apr 8
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 7 to 1500Z, Apr 8
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 7 to 1600Z, Apr 8
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 7 to 0500Z, Apr 8 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 8
FeldHell Spring Sprint	1800Z, Apr 7 to 0359Z, Apr 8 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 8
Yuri Gagarin Int. DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 7 to 2100Z, Apr 8
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 8
SARL Hamnet 40m Sim. Emer. Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Apr 8
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 9
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local to 2300 local, Apr 9
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB	1400Z, Apr 10 to 0200Z, Apr 12
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 11
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 11
Montana QSO Party	2300Z, Apr 13 to 2300Z, Apr 15
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 14 to 1300Z, Apr 15
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 14
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 0359Z, Apr 15 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 16
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local to 2300 local, Apr 17
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 19
TARA Skirmish Digi Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 21
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 21
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0559Z, Apr 21 and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 21 and 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 21 and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 21
Kids Roundup	1400Z, Apr 21 to 2200Z, Apr 22
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 21
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22
EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 21 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 21 (80m) and 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 22 (40m) and 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 22 (20-10m)
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 21 to 1800Z, Apr 22
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 21 to 0500Z, Apr 22 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 22
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 22
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 25
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 28 to 1200Z, Apr 29
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 28 to 1259Z, Apr 29
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 28 to 0159Z, Apr 29 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 29
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 28 to 1700Z, Apr 29

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

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

Get Your Own Callsign Domain — Mark Stennett, NA6M

Are you proud of your callsign? Sign up for your callsign as a .com, .net or .org. Better yet, collect the whole set. Getting your callsign as an internet domain is easy and doesn't have to be expensive. It all starts with a registrar, an entity that registers domain names. Shop around because not all registrars are created equal where service and pricing are concerned. I have had good results with Domainsite.com for my needs. Their prices are low and they offer many features, including DNS (domain name services). You can forward your callsign .com to an existing web site or set up dedicated hosting with a service provider. Another free service for up to 5 domain names is Zonedit.com. Setting up email @your callsign .com is also a breeze. How cool is that? The mechanics of setting up your own callsign domain include:

Task:	Description:	Cost:
Registrar	Register yourcallsign.com	\$6 to \$35 per year
DNS Server	Set up your Domain Name Services	\$Free
Web Host	Sign up for web page hosting or have Registrar forward to free site	\$Free to \$Hundreds per year
Email Host	Set up email hosting	\$Free to \$Hundreds per year

If anyone would like assistance setting up their own domains, just ask. I would be glad to help. Some of you are aware that I run web and email servers as part of Stennett Dot Com and am hosting the WCARC and WC-ARES web sites out of my house. Managing your own domain is easy and can be a lot of fun in the process.

73 de na6m