

WCARC NEWS

May 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

April Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2007

WCARC President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, called the meeting to order and Bob Burrall, KB3HHG, identified himself as a visitor. Then the minutes were approved by the members. Roll call during the meeting produced 32 responses and 32 signed the roster.

Treasurer's Report - Galen Helmchamp, WA0YVQ

Galen presented the treasurer's report for Jon Boles, K5AEM, who was away for the Easter holiday. The treasurer's report was approved by the members.

Beginning Balance:	\$4,197.38
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 50.00
Expenditures:	\$ 47.97
Ending Balance:	\$4,199.71
ARES Funds Available:	\$1,270.97
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,928.74

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	54	42
Family	15	9
Honorary	3	3
Total	72	54
Total Persons		57

While giving the Report, Galen reminded members of the upcoming WCARC picnic. Additionally, he read a card received from Scott, W5ESE, in thanks for his 2nd place award in recognition of his operation in the Texas QSO party.

WCARES Report - Jim Russell, NQ5L

The hurricane forecast is again calling for a more active season than usual and it could lead to the group being busy. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in Round Rock Fire Station #6 by the Dell Diamond.

Repeater Report - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

The repeater is working fine. It is found on 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

DX Report & Contests - John Warren, NT5C

Swains Island, call sign N8S, is an island north of American Samoa is new to the DXCC list. Also coming up later this month is a DXpedition at Scarborough Reef, BS7H. Contests are listed in the Newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Field Day - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom will be coordinating the Field Day activities this year. Serious fun is expected and all members are encouraged to participate. Dick Foster, W5TA, has volunteered to be the CW station captain and Tom will be looking for a phone station captain. Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, has volunteered to let the group operate from his place again this year. Several air conditioned RVs will be provided.

NEW BUSINESS

Club Picnic: The decision was made to again get the food from Georgetown Bar-B-Que.

New meeting place: More locations were discussed, including the Georgetown Library, a fire station, Southwestern University, and restaurants.

Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, spoke about a letter received from the Northern California DX Foundation that has produced a video presentation about the group's efforts. The video can be viewed at www.ncdxf.org. DVDs are also available.

Refreshments

April - Galen Helmkamp, WA0YVQ
May - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX
June - Colman Callaway, N4IM

Member Profile

Fred Juch, N5JXO

Program for April

John Warren, NT5C: DX

Minutes by the honorable club Secretary, Tim Stevens—KD5WML

**WCARES NET... Sunday's
8 p.m. on 146.640, PL 162.2**

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

ARES And More...

ARES REPORT —Jim Russell, NQ5L

The April meeting brought out the idea of forming Mutual Assistance Teams under the ARES umbrella. ARESMAT seeks to develop teams that are able to be a primary resource deployed when local resources are overwhelmed.

The primary responsibility that we all have in an emergency is to first protect ourselves, our families, and our own property. It is only after this is all taken care of that we can be effective emergency operators.

In a severe event, local resources are likely to be overwhelmed for at least some period of time. It is then that help from outside an area is most needed. ARESMAT members will volunteer for special training and will be the first called to respond in this type of situation.

By developing our own resources in this area, we can expect other areas to do the same and be available to help us when we most need it. If this interests you, then come to our next meeting and learn more about ARES and emergency communications.

Reminders. The monthly meeting is on May 10 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

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

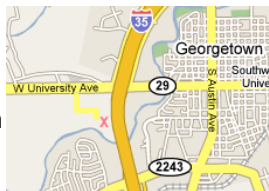
Boat Anchor Pictures

<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/>

"Boatanchor" is amateur radio slang for heavy old tube radio equipment. Originally derogatory, the term is now used affectionately. Seeing an old set working like new after careful repair, cleaning, and alignment gives one great satisfaction.

Join Us For Breakfast

Saturdays at 7:00AM
Village Inn Restaurant, 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

AUSTIN BPL NEWS —Eugene G Preston, PE, Phd

I drove by the <http://egpreston.com/BPLTestAreaMap.pdf> site this morning (04/29/07) and heard the following BPL signals:

< 3 MHz no BPL signals were heard.

3 - 3.4 MHz there were BPL signals

80 meters was notched

4.1 - 6.9 MHz there were BPL signals

40 meters was notched

7.35 - 13 MHz there were BPL signals. If there was a notch on 30 meters, it didn't work very well.

13.1 - 14.4 MHz was notched (all the way down to 13.1 MHz)

> 14.4 MHz there were BPL signals with the following notched bands:

17 meters was notched

15 meters was notched

12 meters was notched

10 meters was notched

29.8 - 32.1 MHz there were BPL signals (why above 30 MHz now and not before?)

32.2 - 36.9 MHz there were no BPL signals (why was this range skipped?)

37 - 38 MHz there were BPL signals (why was this range included? - so baud rates could meet specs?)

above 38 MHz there were no BPL signals

This is what I heard on my FT100 mobile rig. The antenna was tuned to 10 meters and swept across all the bands. I was able to hear WWV on 10 MHz through the BPL signal at the same location that previously the BPL signal had completely covered up the WWV signal. Another thing that was interesting is that the BC band above 13 Mhz had no power line noise as far as I could tell, whereas, in the past there was a lot of power line noise at this location. Austin Energy, we now expect this kind of noise cleanup in other parts of Austin now that we know it can be done!

However, the bad news is that in this neighborhood the lines won't stay power line noise free for long. Lightning will damage arrestors, air-switch contacts will make noise in the summer when the lines start carrying high currents, and loose hardware during dry hot summer weather will soon make a lot of radio noise. This is very likely to cause BPL communication's disruptions this summer, even if the system works well during the initial test period.

Sincerely,
Eugene G Preston, PE, Phd
<http://egpreston.com>

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

Newsletter Deadline for Articles and Submissions is the 25th of the Month prior to publication

In Other News...

WA7BNM Contest Calendar — May, 2007

Portuguese Navy Day Contest, PSK31	1500Z-2100Z, May 5
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 5 to 0400Z, May 6
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 5 to 0500Z, May 6 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 6
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 5 to 1959Z, May 6
US IPARC Annual Contest, SSB	1400Z-2000Z, May 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, May 7
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 8
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 9
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 11
Nevada Mustang Roundup	0001Z-2359Z, May 12
SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest	0600 local, May 12 to 2000 local, May 13
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 12
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 12 to 1200Z, May 13
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 12 to 1200Z, May 13
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1600Z, May 12 to 0400Z, May 13
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 12
EACW International Contest 40m	1800Z-2100Z, May 12
and 80m	2100Z-2400Z, May 12
and 80m	0500Z-0800Z, May 13
and 40m	0800Z-1100Z, May 13
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 12 to 0300Z, May 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, May 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 17
QRP Minimal Art Session	1900Z-2300Z, May 17
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 18
US Counties QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, May 19 to 2400Z, May 20
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 19 to 1200Z, May 20
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 19 to 1200Z, May 20
Manchester Mineira All America CW	1500Z, May 19 to 2359Z, May 20
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 19 to 0200Z, May 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, May 24
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 26 to 2359Z, May 27
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, CW	0800Z-1300Z, May 26
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, May 27
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 local - 2400 local, May 27
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 27 to 0300Z, May 28

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

WCARC Field Day 2007

Field Day will be held again at Bob Thompson's house, W5VGJ. There are plenty of things to do so come join in the fun.

Field Day chairman: Tom Whiteside, N5TW
 Photographer: Mark Stennett, NA6M
 CW Station captain: Dick Foster, W5TA
 SSB Station captain: <Open>
 GOTA Station captain: Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX
 VHF Station captain: <Open>
 Winlink message passing / demonstration captain: Coleman Callaway, N4IM
 Other demonstration captains: <Open> (Who wants to demo Satellite or whatever?)
 Natural power QSO captain: <Open>
 Camp food captain: Dan Poggemiller KB5TWO
 ARRL Field Day Message captain: <Open> (Person to insure we get the ARRL msg)