



# WCARC NEWS

October 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

## September 6th Meeting Minutes

WCARC President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, called the meeting to order and 24 responded to the roll call while 21 signed the roster. These included two new members: Chan Souvandy, KE5OLW, and Paul Rawlins, KE5OAO. August's meeting minutes were approved by the members.

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

Jon presented the treasurer's report which was accepted by the members.

**August 2007:**

Beginning Balance:	\$2,904.73
Receipts/Deposits:	\$ 115.46
Expenditures:	\$ 455.64
Ending Balance:	\$2,564.55
ARES Funds Available:	\$ 965.45
WCARC Funds Available:	\$1,599.10

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	63	66
Family	22	22
Honorary	3	3
Total	88	91
Total Persons		118

### WCARES Report - Tom Whiteside, N5TW for Jim Russell, NQ5L

Tom described the Women's Adventure Race to be held this coming weekend. WCARES meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM at Round Rock Fire Station #6 by the Dell Diamond.

### Repeater Report - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom reported that the repeater is working but mentioned the tower had been struck by lightning. The repeater may be found on 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

### Upcoming Special Events—Bob Thompson, W5VGJ

Sunday 9/9/07 - Women's Adventure Race  
- Jim Mischel, KB7UQD, says he has enough volunteers to cover the event. Communications efforts begin at 7:30 AM.

Saturday 10/6/07 - Belton Swapfest

Saturday 10/13/07 - WCARC Picnic

Saturday 10/13/07 - WCARES SET

Saturday 10/20/07 - Outlaw 100

- Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, needs volunteers to equip and ride in the SAG wagons. Short and long routes available. Use of GPS/APRS encouraged.

### DX Report & Contests

No Report

### Old Business

Mosley Beam: Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, received the final parts for the high gain antenna, so the Mosley beam is complete.

WCARC Picnic: Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, briefed members on the upcoming picnic. We are going back to only buying the meat for the BBQ and having members provide 2 dishes - a side and a dessert with serving utensils. Extra lawn chairs will be needed since the large pavilion was not available this year.

### New Business

Club Appreciation: Dean Hamilton, K5FDH, reviewed the recent incident where a woman left the retirement home and a search was undertaken. The woman was found alive and in good shape. To show appreciation for the participation of club members during the search, the Wesleyan Home provided pizza for this meeting. In response, Tom Whiteside, N5TW, expressed the Club's gratitude to the retirement home allowing the members to hold their monthly meetings at this facility.

Joint D-Star Repeater Proposal: Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, discussed an email he received from Don Dudley, AC5YK, President of the Austin Amateur Radio Club (AARC). In the email, Don proposed that area amateur radio clubs work together to implement a D-Star repeater.

See minutes... page 2

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

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

## In Other News...

**WA7BNM Contest Calendar — October, 2007**

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 2
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	1400Z, Oct 2 to 0200Z, Oct 4
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
432 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 3
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 4
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 5
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 6
LOTW Contest, Phone	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 6
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 6
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 6 to 0800Z, Oct 7
International HELL-Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Oct 6 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 7 (40m)
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 6 to 2159Z, Oct 7
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 6
PRO CW Contest	1600Z-1800Z, Oct 6 and 0600Z-0800Z, Oct 7
UBA ON Contest, 6m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 7
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 7
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB	1400Z, Oct 9 to 0200Z, Oct 11
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 10
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 10
NCCC Sprint, CW	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 12
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Oct 13 and 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 13 and 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 14
Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1200 local, Oct 13
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 13 to 0800Z, Oct 14
Pennsylvania QSO Party and	1600Z, Oct 13 to 0500Z, Oct 14
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1300Z-2200Z, Oct 14
FISTS Fall Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 13
North American Sprint, RTTY	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 13
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 14
ARRL School Club Roundup	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 14
NCCC Sprint, CW	1300Z, Oct 15 to 2400Z, Oct 19
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 19
ARCI Fall QSO Party	0000Z, Oct 20 to 2400Z, Oct 21
Worked All Germany Contest	1200Z, Oct 20 to 2400Z, Oct 21
Feld Hell Sprint	1500Z, Oct 20 to 1459Z, Oct 21
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z-1700Z, Oct 20
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1500Z, Oct 20 to 1500Z, Oct 21
070 Club 160m Grt. Pumpkin Spr.	1600Z, Oct 20 to 2359Z, Oct 21
50 MHz Fall Sprint	2000 local, Oct 20 to 0200 local, Oct 21
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	2300Z, Oct 20 to 0300Z, Oct 21
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 21
Illinois QSO Party	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	1700Z, Oct 21 to 0100Z, Oct 22
NCCC Sprint, CW	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 22
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 26
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 27 to 2400Z, Oct 28
10-10 Int. Fall Contest	0000Z, Oct 27 to 2359Z, Oct 28
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0001Z, Oct 27 to 2359Z, Oct 28 0000Z-2400Z, Oct 28

Contest Calendar compliments of WA7BNM @

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

*Minutes... continued from page 1*

Austin Amateur Radio Supply (AARS) has offered a free 1.2 GHz D-Star repeater and a 30% discount on a 440 MHz D-Star module. AARC is interested in the D-Star offer but may lack the funds to take AARS up on the offer or a good location for deployment. Therefore, AARC is reaching out to area clubs to set up a joint effort for implementation. The clubs being contacted are WCARC and the 3M Amateur Radio Club. Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HDX, referred to a recent QST article and related ads concerning D-Star technology and equipment. He said the Austin club has set aside \$1500 to spend on D-Star this year. The end result is planned to be a 2 meter/70 cm/23 cm D-Star repeater with high speed 128 Kb/s half-duplex bandwidth in digital mode on 1.2 GHz. The 3M club site is being considered because of its satisfactory coverage of Travis and Williamson counties.

- Benefits of D-Star include: radio-to-radio CQ calls based on call sign without knowing the location of the person at the other end (analogous to digital cell phone service and works with repeaters connected through the internet, similar to EchoLink); simultaneous data + voice transmission and fast rates (however, 2 meter speeds are the same as non-D-Star technologies); trials indicate that range is 10% better than FM.
- Challenges: The 3M location presents ownership issues; radios are \$500 (HT) to \$1000 (mobile); limited model selection at this time; steep learning curve; possible field service limitations.
- Other considerations: Waco Club is already putting a system together; the Austin implementation will move forward but the question is whether WCARC will be involved.

**Refreshments**

September - Dean Hamilton, K5FDH

October - Tom and Merri Chapman, KC9FOZ and KE5MNA

**Program for September** – Summer Radio Adventure in Botswana by Jay Sewell, W5SL

*minutes submitted by the honorable club secretary, Tim Stevens, KD5WML*

**Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor**

Howdy folks,

I have reached a point where my work schedule is becoming more demanding and I find myself needing to rearrange some priorities. Please consider taking over as newsletter editor since I will no longer be able to do it on a regular basis. I am willing to assist whoever assumes the role. No real special skills are needed. Look at me, I've been able to do it.

73 de NA6M