



# WCARC NEWS

January 2008

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County  
Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644  
Georgetown, TX 78627

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### WCARC Officers

#### President

Tom Chapman, KC9FOZ

#### Vice-President

Craig Boegler, W5TSN

#### Secretary

Tim Stevens, KD5WML

#### Treasurer

Dick Lenning, KE5AGG

### WCARC Staff

#### Public Information Officer

Virgil Buell, KD4KQV

#### Newsletter Editor

Bob Farmer, W9BF

#### Webmaster

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

#### Guest Speaker Committee

Craig Boegler, W5TSN, Chair

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Farmer, W9BF

#### Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

## December Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2007

President Bob Thompson, W5VGJ, called the meeting to order and passed around the sign-in sheet. 34 responded to the roll call while 38 signed the roster. The previous meeting's minutes were accepted without changes. Bob announced that this meeting would be used to process some motions that would require a show of hands, as is required by the WCARC.

Treasurer's Report - Jon Boles, K5AEM  
Jon presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted by the members.

November, 2007

Beginning Balance	\$2,487.31
Receipts/Deposits:	\$49.99
Expenditures:	\$716.60
Ending Balance:	\$1,820.70
ARES Funds Available	\$913.53
WCARC Funds Available:	\$907.17

Paid Membership

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	66	68
Family	23	25
Honorary	3	3
Total	92	96
Total Persons		122

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

Jim is out this month, so Bob Thompson reminded everyone of the meetings that take place on the second Thursday of the month, at 7 PM, at Round Rock Fire Station #6 by the Dell Diamond. The 146.64 repeater is used for talk-in. Tom Whiteside announced that the Winlink system in South Texas is very strong, now having 5 of the 30 emergency PMBO servers in the United States after the installation of a new one in Harlingen today. Also, there will be a Winlink workshop in Burnet this Sunday at 1 PM.

WCARC Repeater Report - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Tom reported that the repeater is working well and may be found on 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

DX Report & Contests - John Warren, NT5C  
An important contest is coming up this weekend. This is the ARRL 10 meter contest, one of the best and simplest of contests around for people wanting to try them out.

Special Events - Bob Thompson, W5VGJ  
December 7-8: Austin Radio Roundup at Walter E. Long Lake (AKA Decker Lake).

Congratulatory Letter: In a letter from Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, he congratulated the Club on its performance during the 2007 Field Day and finishing in first place out of 53 groups

representing the section. There were two records set in the event: 2331 entries and 34,833 participants. While no one will receive a sponsored top finishing award, Jerry wished to recognize the outstanding results of this group's efforts. Tom Whiteside added that WCARC also received the highest score of any entry in Texas. FAR Scholarships: The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR). Bob Thompson received a notice about FAR Scholarships which he made available for members to view.

N5TT: Craig Boegler, W5TSN, said that Bob Petrosky, N5TT, is in the Park Place Nursing Home by San Gabriel Park after having been in the hospital.

Old Business - Bob Thompson, W5SVJ  
Meeting location: Bob announced that the end date for the use of the Wesleyan Home has suddenly been brought in. The January 3rd meeting will be the final one at the current location. Possible short and long term locations will be discussed further by the new officers. Bob also pointed out that the bylaws specify that the President of the Club is tasked with choosing the meeting location and it is not necessarily selected by the members. While the current plan is to meet at the new Wesleyan location, the transition date is not known.

Memberships, Dues, the Bylaws, and Related Matters

\* Voting: Bob discussed the concept of "two-thirds vote" as described in Roberts Rules of Order,

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and how important is for all those with varying opinions on any matter to speak up and to cast a vote. He also described how, 20 years ago, the repeaters were very busy and difficult to get onto. Now, people depend on the Club reflector and cell phones to talk. He continued on to say that at the meetings were the proper venue in which to discuss business and count votes. The reflector is a great place to discuss radio and technical issues, but Club business and voting should not be carried out there.

\*Membership Dues: In the last meeting, there was discussion about raising the membership dues. Bob has visited with an attorney and examined the bylaws of other rare clubs in recent weeks. He has determined that membership dues are not normally included in the bylaws, as WCARC has. Instead, they are set by the board of directors. The WCARC dues have not been changed in many years. The Waco and Temple clubs have dues that are twice or more than those that WCARC has and, therefore, they have money and ability to work on projects and donate to special funds. WCARC is unable to do the same because of the low amount of cash collected by membership dues. This also prevents licensing and insurance needed for some purposes. For example, Bob recently turned down a 16 foot RV trailer that was offered free to the Club but it was not possible to invest the funds needed to maintain it. In contrast, Waco has such a trailer with multiple radios and antennas covering a large part of the spectrum (See Summary).

\*Incorporation of the Club: The increase proposed for WCARC dues amounts to only 83 cents a month; however, according to a tax attorney, the Club will have to pay taxes if dues are increased because it is not currently exempt. A further complication is that the group is not officially considered a club. As a social club, the group could apply for 501(c)(7) status, which would set \$25,000 as the maximum group income before having to pay taxes. The lawyers said that they would not turn in an application for 501(c)(3) status because we do not qualify for that exemption. Temple's radio club is defined as a 501(c)(7) organization. The attorney also advised Bob that the Club is wide open to law suits. Without formal organization as a club, there is no protection against liability claims. The officers are particularly vulnerable.

\*Bylaws: Bob has reviewed the bylaws and found a number of parts that are out of date and, in comparison to other rare clubs' bylaws, the entire document is inadequate and in need of a rewrite.

\*Summary: Bob reviewed December balances from the last 2-3 years. At the beginning, the Club had a balance of \$2600. Going into this December, the Club has about \$900. He also believes that all Club members are at risk of being sued should there be an accident and something needs to be done to formally incorporate the group as a Club and file with the state. He recommends that the group incorporate and file with the IRS in accordance with section 501(c)(7) of the IRC as a social club. This provides tax exempt status and provides for protection as a formally registered organization.

\*Meeting Discussion:

Q: Do the lengthier example bylaws, provided by Bob, satisfy the concerns of the attorney?

A: Bob did not have the example bylaws (from other groups) when he met with the attorney, but the detail contained in those documents was significantly greater than the one sentence statements in the current WCARC bylaws. The WCARC bylaws are described in two pages whereas the other clubs' bylaws were as long as 15-16 pages in length and they dedicated whole paragraphs to each point. Additionally, a lot of topics covered in the examples are absent from the WCARC bylaws.

Q: Does the Club have an attorney that would work pro bono to assist with the bylaws and applications?

A: There were several ideas about who might be approached, but no arrangements have been made.

Additional comments included: The Club might need to look into obtaining a liability insurance policy. Examples of liability policies discussed ranged from \$700 to \$1000. Additionally, while the origin of the current bylaws is known, it is not clear where they were approved by members.

\*Deletables: Dick Leaning, KE5AGG said he would look into a rewrite of the bylaws and applying for tax-exempt status. Tom Chapman, KC9FOZ, said he would help as well as consult a tax attorney friend. They will return with a report of what they learned next month.

\*Additional Information: The bylaws that Bob has researched specify that the Executive Board sets the dues. The Executive Board is comprised of the four current officers plus the past President. The current WCARC bylaws state that the dues are voted on by the total membership of the Club. Two-thirds of the membership must vote in favor of such a motion in order for it to be enacted. The motion must be first given in writing to the members one month before the vote is to take place. A quorum, or 20% of the membership, must be present in order for the vote to be valid. The vote must be held twice, within ten days, unless 2/3 of all members are in attendance for the first vote. Under the new rules, using the other bylaws as an example, the Executive Board would set the dues; even so, in the spirit of checks and balances, the membership can vote to nullify that decision.

\*Motion: Tom Whiteside proposed that the new officers form a committee to examine the Club charter and determine changes that should be made to the bylaws. In addition, they should provide an analysis and recommendation regarding the dues at a subsequent meeting. Comments by others that related to this motion were that the officers should: apply for 501(c)(7) status, plan the future and goals of the Club, return with documentation of incorporation. The motion was finally defined as: The Executive Board (newly elected officers + past President) should further review the bylaws and dues, determine those changes that would benefit the Club, and return at a future meeting with recommendations to be voted on by the membership. A vote on this motion was determined to be unnecessary.

New Business

WCARC/OTERA Swap Fe s t Sunday March 9 t h

Rick Trommer, W5NR, recognized Brad Rehm, K45V, of H OTERA, for helping with arranging a new location for the next Swap Fe s t. For the past few years, the Show Barn was used due to Community Center renovations and budget constraints. In forming a new

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partnership, the George Town Community Center in San Gabriel Park will be the site this year for the WCARC/OTERA Swap Fest. With the combined resources of the groups, the event will be larger than past years. Doors open to participants at 7 AM and the general public at 8 AM. The event will run till 3 PM. Tables will be \$10 each. Admission is free. Testing will be provided.

Annual Ride for the Ranch: Saturday March 8th

Jim Michael, KB7UQD, announced that 8-12 volunteers were needed for SAG wagons at the event to be held at Spirit Ranch. More details will be provided next month. Those interested in the event can contact Dallas Mellichamp, KD4H NX, who has served as net control for the past couple of years.

Classes

Bemie Davies, KC5LGS, asked if it would be possible to have training for the General Classes prior to March. Several resource suggestions were provided and Tom Whiteside thought a class could be arranged if there was enough interest. Bob Thompson described how the CD/book combinations available produce excellent results.

2008 Officer Elections

Tom Chapman, KC9FOZ, ran unopposed for the office of President. Craig Boegler, W5TSN, ran unopposed for Vice President. Tim Stevens, KD5WML, ran unopposed for Secretary (in absentia). Dick Leanning, KE5AGG, ran unopposed for Treasurer. Each of those running for office was approved unanimously by 36 voting members.

Additionally, Mark Stennett, NA6M, was recognized for outstanding service as editor of the newsletter for the past couple of years. Bob Farmer, W9BF, will be assuming the role of newsletter editor with the January issue. Jon Bols, K5AEM, was recognized for his service as Treasurer, as was Gale Nhekamp, WA0YVQ, for ensuring the Treasurer's duties were fulfilled when Jon was out. Finally, Bob Farmer was recognized for his coordination of speakers, in 2007, and Bob Thompson for his leadership of the Club.

Program for December - Lecture on the Benefits of Upgrading from VHF to HF Communications  
Brad Rehm, KV5V

<p><b>WCARC Meetings</b> 1st Thursdays - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Wesleyan Retirement Home 1105 S. Church St. Georgetown, TX 78626</p>	<p><b>Join Us For Breakfast</b> Saturdays at 7:00AM</p> <p>Village Inn Restaurant, Wolf Ranch 1007 West University Georgetown, TX 78626</p>	<p><b>WCARES Meetings</b> 2nd Thursdays - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Round Rock Fire Stn #6 2919 Joe DiMaggio Drive Round Rock, TX 78664</p>
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WA7BNM Contest Calendar - January, 2008

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z -1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z -1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z -1900Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1900Z -2100Z, Jan 1 (432)
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 5 to 2400Z, Jan 6
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z -2300Z, Jan 5 and 0400Z -0700Z, Jan 6
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z -2400Z, Jan 6
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 12 to 2400Z, Jan 13
070 Club PSK Fest	0000Z -2400Z, Jan 12
MIORP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 12 to 2359Z, Jan 13
Midwinter Contest, CW	400Z -2000Z, Jan 12
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 12 to 0600Z, Jan 13
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z -0730Z, Jan 13
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z -1400Z, Jan 13
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z -1000Z, Jan 14
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z -1059Z, Jan 13
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z -0330Z, Jan 17
LZ Open Contest	400Z -1200Z, Jan 19
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 19 to 1200Z, Jan 20
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 19 to 1200Z, Jan 20
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 19 to 0600Z, Jan 20
ARRL January VHF Sweeps takes	1900Z, Jan 19 to 0400Z, Jan 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z -0300Z, Jan 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 26 to 2359Z, Jan 27
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 26 to 1800Z, Jan 27

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OWNED EQUIPMENT

Reviewed December 4th, 2007

QTY—DESCRIPTION—LAST LOCATION—DATE

**Tower Work**

- 1 Gin Pole - John Benedict—KE5RS - 05 May-07
- 1 Tower Step - Rick Trommer—W5NR - 05 May 07

**Antenna measurement**

- 1 MFJ Antenna Analyzer - KD4HNX—Dallas Mellichamp - 04 Jul 07
- 1 MFJ Grid Dip Adapter W5TA, Dick Foster -20-Nov-05

**HF Antennas**

- 1 Butternut HF Vertical 10M-80M - W5TA, Dick Foster, 5 Jul 07
- 1 Cushcraft 6-el. 440MHz Beam - W5VGJ, Bob Thompson, 05 Jun 07
- 1 Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical - W5TA, Dick Foster - 20-Nov-05
- 1 Hygain triband antenna - W5VGJ, Bob Thompson, 05 Jun 07
- 1 Mosley Triband Antenna (Donated by Harvey, N0AJP) - W5VGJ, Bob Thompson, 05 Jun 07

**Masts**

- 1 Push Up Mast - KC5RPF, Ken Larsen - 23-Nov-05
- 2 Push Up Masts - W5VGJ, Bob Thompson—07 Jun 07

**Power Supplies**

- 1 20 Amp Power Supply - KB7UQD, Jim Michel - 04 Aug 07

**Miscellaneous**

- 2 Heavy Duty Power Cords - K5HTK, Jim Hester - 24-Nov-05
- VHF/UHF Antenas
- 1 DB Commercial grade Antenna VHF high-band 158MHz - W5VGJ, Bob Thompson - 23 Jun 07