



WCARC NEWS

April, 2008

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County
Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

Inside This Issue

Minutes 1,2
Contests 3
Equip. List 4

WCARC Officers

President

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Vice-President

Rick Trommer, W5NR

Secretary

Tim Stevens, KD5WML

Treasurer

Kees Talen, K5BCQ

WCARC Staff

Newsletter Editor

Bob Farmer, W9BF

Webmaster

Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

Guest Speaker Committee

Rick Trommer, W5NR

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Farmer, W9BF

Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

March Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2008

WCARC President Tom Chapman KC9FOZ began the March meeting with the brief announcement that he wished to resign as President and club member, effectively immediately, and that he had also accepted the resignations of the Vice President, Craig Boegler W5TSN, and the Treasurer, Dick Lenning KE5AGG. Upon resigning, the three left the meeting.. Following this, the Secretary, Tim Stevens KD5WML, requested permission from the members present to be allowed to oversee the remainder of the meeting. The members approved with no objections noted. Tim brought the meeting to order and started the circulation of a sign-in sheet, with 31 signing. The membership accepted the meeting minutes from February with no corrections suggested.

Treasurer's Report – Tim Stevens KD5WML

Tim presented Dick Lenning's Treasurer's Report, which was accepted by the members.

March, 2008

Beginning Balance:	\$2,262.92
Receipts/Deposits:	\$130.00
Expenditures:	\$361.24
Ending Balance:	\$2,031.68
ARES Funds Available:	\$913.53
WCARC Funds Available:	\$1,118.15

Paid Membership, 2008

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	14	41
Family	7	16
Honorary	3	3
Total	24	60
Total Persons		78

ARES – Jim Russell NQ5L

WCARES 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.

Repeater Report – Tom Whiteside N5TW

Repeater is working and everyone is invited to use it. 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

Old Business /Special Events & Announcements – Tim Stevens

KD5WML

WCARC/HOTERA Swapfest: March 9th at the Community Center. Rick Trommer W5NR provided updates for the group. 40 tables have been sold, which go for \$10 each. Setup is at 7 AM and will last till at least 3 PM but can go longer if desired. Hardware testing will be available. Reminder – the event takes places on the first day of Daylight Saving Time.

Ride for the Ranch: March 8th. Jim Mischel KB7UQD discussed the 62 mile bike ride and solicited volunteers for SAG wagons and net control services.

Annual Georgetown Red Poppy Ride: April 26th. More details were discussed.

WCARC Picnic: Rick Trommer W5NR discussed tentative plans for the Club Picnic and Saturday, April 26, was determined to be the best date. This date has been confirmed and park area "A", the large arbor, has been reserved.

Field Day: Bob Thompson W5VJG will be unable to host the coming field day at his location, so Jim Russell NQ5L discussed the possibility of having the event held on his acreage in Leander.

New Business – Tim Stevens KD5WML With the resignation of 3 officers, the Club was compelled to elect new ones to serve out the remainder of the 2008 term. Tim Stevens will continue as Secretary through 2008. With 24 voting members present, a quorum was determined to be present and nominations were entertained, followed

by a vote. The following individuals were elected by unanimous vote according to Roberts Rules of Order:

President - Tom Whiteside N5TW

Vice President – Rick Trommer W5NR

Treasurer – Kees Talen K5BCQ

Refreshments:

April - Tom Whiteside N5TW

Program for April 3. Meeting - Our guest speaker for April will be John Wagner, WA5VBP, on Ham Radio's Role with International Health Service.

Program for May 1. Meeting - Our guest speaker for the May 1st meeting will be Lew Thompson, W5IFQ/AAR6UK. The subject title will be Introduction to NVIS: Propagation & Practice. This will be a basic presentation on the mechanisms of HF NVIS propagation with practical application of frequency selection and antenna design.

President's Column

If you were not at the last club meeting, you know from the minutes or otherwise that our club's President, Vice-President and Treasurer resigned at the beginning of the last meeting and that this is a new President, Tom Whiteside, writing this. I was very sorry to see these resignations and to lose these folks as club members. They are all people who have contributed to the club and deserve our continued respect and friendship. Probably all of us have different reasons for belonging to the club – we are all different people. But I think we all share a common love of radio and enjoy the fellowship of communing with others with a similar affliction! So let's get on with the business of having some radio related fun!

Looking back, I'd like to thank everyone that participated in making our annual swap fest happen! Special thanks to Rick Trommer W5NR for all the effort he put into organizing the event. Cliff White WB5DYA handled the raffle prizes with his lovely bride Lenore managing ticket sales. Dave Hassell N5IW ran the VE team for the associated test session. Thanks as well to the many that showed up to setup tables and to tear down at the end plus those that bought tables or raffle tickets. It was FUN! Also looking back, Jim Mischel KB7UQD organized the volunteers from the group that helped with the Spokes & Spurs Ride for the Ranch bike ride this year. Riding around doing radio support on that very pretty spring central Texas day on those country roads was NEAT!

We have the club picnic coming up April 26th! Thanks to Rick Trommer W5NR for organizing the details including making the reservations. Always a fun event. (I should add a love of eating to the list of things we seem to all share!)

Believe it or not, it is time to start planning Field Day for this year! At the last meeting, I promised to gather a set of team captains for Field Day and to present a plan for the club's approval at the May meeting. Thanks for those who have volunteered for this group as well as those who have offered RVs and other things for the effort. Please get hold of me if you are interested in participating as a Captain for Field Day!

We have a great program for this month! Our speaker is John Wagner WA5VBP who is going to talk about ham radio's role in supporting a recent medical mission by the International Health Service to Honduras. This is quite a story and John is a really neat guy – you won't want to miss this program!

As I write this, there are 3 new active regions on the Sun that are really kicking up conditions on the HF bands. There is always some overlap between spots from the old cycle and ones identified as new cycle spots – these are officially old cycle spots but we are at the beginning of the new cycle. John Warren NT5C told me when I got my license at the end of 1995 that this was the perfect time to begin on HF as conditions would continuously build from there and I would have the excitement of riding the ever improving conditions. Well, boys and girls, that is where we are right now! If you are already an HF operator, time to dust off the radio! And if not, with the elimination of the code requirement, there is really no excuse to not get your General class license and join in the fun! Please take notes along the way and share them with our illustrious newsletter Editor, Bob Farmer W9BF. Also, be thinking about sharing some of what you are enjoying doing with the club as a speaker – please see Rick Trommer W5NR with your presentation ideas!

Well, that is it for this month. Hope to see folks at the club breakfast at the Village Inn Saturday mornings and at the club meeting!

73, Tom Whiteside N5TW

WCARC Meetings

1st Thursdays - 7:30 PM

Wesleyan Retirement Home
139 Estrella Crossing
Georgetown, TX 78626

Join Us For Breakfast

Saturdays at 7:00AM

Village Inn Restaurant, Wolf
Ranch
1007 West University
Georgetown, TX 78626

WCARES Meetings

2nd Thursdays - 7:00 PM

Round Rock Fire Stn #6
2919 Joe DiMaggio Drive
Round Rock, TX 78664

April, 2008 Contest Calendar

Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 4 to 2400Z, Apr 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 4
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 6
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 5 to 2400Z, Apr 6
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 5 to 1500Z, Apr 6
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 5 to 1600Z, Apr 6
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 1800Z, Apr 6
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 0500Z, Apr 6 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 6
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 7
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 7
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 9
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 11
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 13
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
Radio Maritime Day	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 12 to 2100Z, Apr 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 13
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 13
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 16
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 18
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 19
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 19
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 19
Feld Hell Sprint	1500Z-1700Z, Apr 19
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 19 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 19 (80m) and 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 20 (40m) and 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 20 (20-10m)
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 0500Z, Apr 20 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 20
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 19 to 0500Z, Apr 20 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 23
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 23
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 24
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 26 to 1200Z, Apr 27
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 26 to 1259Z, Apr 27
QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 26 to 0300Z, Apr 27
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 0159Z, Apr 27 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 27
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 26 to 1700Z, Apr 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 Mischel - 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