



WCARC NEWS

May, 2008

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County
Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

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Rick Trommer, W5NR

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Farmer, W9BF

Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

April Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2008

WCARC President Tom Whiteside, N5TW, began the April meeting by welcoming the visiting speaker, John Wagner, WA5VBP, and his family from Victoria. Also welcomed were new members Tom Harper, N0MKC, and Tom "Erik" Blomquist, KC2GQH. Thirty (30) attendees signed the roster. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Kees Talen, K5BCQ

Kees presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted by the members. A summary follows:

April, 2008

Beginning Balance:	\$2,031.68
Receipts/Deposits:	\$1,434.50
Expenditures:	\$434.65
Ending Balance:	\$3,031.53
ARES Funds Available:	\$913.53
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,118.00

Paid Membership, 2008

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	41	55
Family	16	19
Honorary	3	3
Total	60	77
Total Persons	78	90

New Members (joined at Swapfest)

Brian Bible, N5BTB
Robert Coulter, W1HBP
Robert Snyder, K10QM

ARES – Jim Russell, NQ5L

Jim announced the coming meeting would cover Packet Radio and Winlink and requested that members with these capabilities bring equipment for demonstration. WCARES meetings that take place on the second Thursday of the

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

WCARC/HOTERA Swapfest: Rick Trommer, W5NR, commented that the decline in attendance this year mirrored a downturn in other swap fests in the past year. Even so, 40 tables were occupied. Money was made. Rick acknowledged Cliff White, WB5DYA, and his wife, Lenore, for arranging for great door prizes, Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, for talk-in, Dave Hassell, N5IW, for ARLL testing, Mark Stennett, NA6M, with test equipment, and everyone for showing up. In addition, Rick proposed that next year's Swapfest be held February 7th, a Saturday. When asked for a show of hands, a majority preferred Saturday over Sunday. Following discussion, Tom Whiteside, N5TW, thanked Rick for the enormous amount of work he put into organizing the event.

WCARC Picnic: Rick Trommer discussed final plans for the Club Picnic to be held at the Large Arbors at San Gabriel Park on April 26. Discussion then followed concerning the food costs and because the picnic was going to occur before the next meeting, approval was given by the Club to let Rick make arrangements for provision of BBQ. The rest of the members are to bring sides and desserts. Rick then said he would like to go through the roster to invite members who have been absent for a while to attend the picnic.

Field Day: Tom Whiteside said he was working with a team to create a proposal for this year's Field Day. The proposal

will be presented to the membership at the next meeting. Tom listed a number of team captains and solicited the membership for a couple of open spots. Dick Foster, W5TA, presented Field Day contest trends going back to 1995 and recapped last year's results.

New Business:

None this month

Refreshments:

April - Tom Whiteside, N5TW

May - Jerry Fye, KE5DVK

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

It's 3 o'clock in the morning and you're the president... Nope, nobody called, but I remembered I need to get this column to Bob Farmer, W9BF, before we leave town first thing Friday morning so he can get the newsletter out... I know what you're thinking – you are thinking that means I will miss the picnic and you are correct, darn it! You're also probably thinking more brisket for you!

Speaking of the picnic, our thanks are owed to Rick Trommer for organizing the site, the food and a call up tree to remind folks including people we have not heard from in a while. Weather forecast looks good going into the picnic – Rick gets credit for that too unless it rained...

It was good to see a number of you up at the Belton Hamfest! While looking around, Bob Redoutey, N5KF, approached me with a terrific proposal: The club has not had a Public Information Officer (PIO) for some time, and he thinks we need one for the good of the club and for ham radio. Better still, he is volunteering to take that position if we want., That is just the spirit that makes a good club work! So that will appear under new business on the meeting agenda to see if y'all agree!

Last month, I promised to form a Field Day team and to bring a proposal to the May club meeting for approval, and that will be on the agenda. We've had a great set of volunteers come forward as station/team captains and also had some great resources offered up: Here is the lineup of Captains in no particular order:

SSB Captain: Coleman, N4IM

CW Captain: Dick, W5TA

GOTA Captain: Dallas, KD4HNX

VHF/UHF Captain: open – volunteer needed if we are going to have a VHF/UHF station this year.

Captain Cook: Dan, KB5TWO, with Rick, W5NR, helping

FD Chairman: Tom, N5TW

FD Vice-chairman: Dick, W5TA

As mentioned last month, the proposed emphasis will be the same as last year: "Serious Fun", which means playing hard but with a primary emphasis on participation and folks getting to operate and learn. Last month, I described the beautiful setting for the Spokes and Spurs bike race that was raising money for the wonderful Spirit Reins Ranch. Well, those nice folks have invited us to operate from there without charge and that will be part of the proposal for the club's approval at the May meeting. Check out their website at: <http://www.spiritreins.org/>

VP Rick, W5NR, has a great program planned for us by Lew Thompson, W5IFQ, on HF propagation. Lew is very bright engineer and has completed an extensive course on the topic, as well as years of experience as an amateur operator. Mostly, we have emphasized long distance propagation – Lew's talk will emphasize the equally important art of efficient closer in communications. Should be a fun and instructive program!

Well, that is it for this month. As indicated at the column start, time for me to head out to East Texas for a family gathering. See you 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

May, 2008 Contest Calendar

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
QRP Minimal Art Session	1900Z-2300Z, May 1
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 2
MARAC SSB QSO Party	0000Z, May 3 to 2400Z, May 4
MARAC CW QSO Party	0000Z, May 3 to 2400Z, May 4
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 3
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4
Portuguese Navy Day Contest	1500Z, May 3 to 1500Z, May 4
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 3 to 0400Z, May 4
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 3 to 1959Z, May 4
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4
	1300Z-2400Z, May 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 9
Nevada Mustang Roundup	2300Z, May 9 to 2300Z, May 10
SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest	0600 local, May 10 to 2000 local, May 11
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 10
EUCW Fraternalizing CW QSO Party	1000Z-1200Z, May 10
	1800Z-2000Z, May 11
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1159Z, May 11
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1200Z, May 11
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 10
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 10 to 0300Z, May 11
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, May 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 14
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 16
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
Feld Hell Sprint	1500Z-1700Z, May 17
Manchester Mineira All America CW Contest	1500Z, May 17 to 2359Z, May 18
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 17 to 0200Z, May 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 19
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24 to 2359Z, May 25
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, CW	0800Z-1300Z, May 24
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 local - 2400 local, May 27
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 26 to 0300Z, May 27
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 28
Kids Roundup	1400Z, May 31 to 2200Z, Jun 1

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