



WCARC NEWS

August, 2008

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County
Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

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WCARC Officers

President
Tom Whiteside, N5TW

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Rick Trommer, W5NR

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Kees Talen, K5BCQ

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Bob Farmer, W9BF

Webmaster
Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

Guest Speaker Committee
Rick Trommer, W5NR
Tom Whiteside, N5TW
Bob Farmer, W9BF

Emergency Coordinator
Jim Russell, NQ5L

June Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2008
WCARC President Tom Whiteside N5TW started the July meeting welcoming everyone on the evening before the 4th of July. Wesleyan Retirement Home resident Pauline Miller visited to see what the meetings were about and Milt Cram W8NUE was present to deliver the evening's program. 26 answered the roll call while 24 signed the roster. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without corrections.

Treasurer's Report – Kees Talen, K5BCQ
Kees presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted by the members. A summary follows:

June, 2008

Beginning Balance:	\$2,423.65
Receipts/Deposits:	\$75.00
Expenditures:	\$377.82
Ending Balance:	\$2,120.83
ARES Funds Available:	\$580.21
WCARC Funds " ":	\$1,540.62
	(YTD -\$559)

Paid Membership, 2008

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	62	62
Family	22	24
Honorary	3	3
Total	87	89
(YTD +2)		
Total Persons	114	118

New members include Fred Neff WE7M and Pat Neff NJ7R, and Jack Coleman AC5DI and Pat Coleman of Palestine, TX.

ARES – Jim Russell, NQ5L
Bertha, the second storm of this hurricane season, is developing in the Atlantic and if you're interested in emergency communications, come to the ARES meeting. WCARES meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month, at 7

PM, at Round Rock Fire Station #6 on Joe DiMaggio Drive by the Dell Diamond on Highway 79, west of I-35.

Repeater Report – Tom Whiteside NT5W

In recognition of the potential for storms during hurricane season, Tom noted that the 146.64 repeater uses a Morse code "W" when there is severe weather in the area and the repeater can run on batteries for about a week. When operating on batteries, a Morse code "B" is heard.

Contests and DX Report - John Warren NT5C, Bob Farmer W5BF, Tom Whiteside N5TW

DX: John Warren said that the new solar cycle is a little late getting started but the Austin Summerfest is coming and the Central Texas DX & Contest Club (CTDXCC) will be putting on a program at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Saturday August 2nd. The program will be at 10 AM on Saturday. Sala Sharma VU2SWS from India will be in town and she will talk about the DXpedition to the Lakshadweep Islands, VU7LD. Also, Bob Wilson N6TV will talk about Software Defined Radios (SDR) and CW skimmers. Bob Farmer discussed E-Skips, which occur twice a year, where clouds form in the E-Layer (roughly 60 miles up) and allow for unusually good 6 meter DX work. E-Skip activity is going on now.

Contests: Tom Whiteside said that the North American QSO party is the same weekend as Summerfest. Also, John said that the IAIU HF 24 hour contest is coming up next weekend.

New Business

Dallas Mellichamp KD4HNX– Summerfest is coming and he needs volunteers for talk-ins. Also, the Austin Amateur Radio Club and Cub Scout Pack 304 will be talking with the International Space Station from Round

Rock tomorrow, July the 4th.

Kees Talen K5BCQ – Kees requested that the Club print up 100 or so membership forms and make them available at Summerfest. The motion was approved.

Tom Whiteside N5TW – After moving antennas, Tom is now the keeper of most of the Club's antennas and tower sections. One of the antennas is a 4-bay VHF antenna that the Club has been trying to sell, unsuccessfully, for years. He asked the Club whether the antenna could be given to Dave Hassell N5IW without cost. The motion was approved.

Old Business /Special Events & Announcements

Field Day: Tom Whiteside said Field Day was Fun! He then acknowledged the captains who did an outstanding job. Special thanks went to the fine people at Spirit Reins Ranch for their wonderful hospitality. Dick Foster W5TA recapped the event, showing photos and statistics.

Refreshments

July – Kees Talen K5BCQ provided

August - Rick Trommer W5NR

Programs – Rick Trommer W5NR

Please contact Rick with your program ideas.

August - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4NHX, Soldering PL-259 Connectors

President's Column

As I'm writing this, it is 5:15AM Saturday morning and I want to get this off to Bob W9BF before heading off to Summerfest! Larry Hammel K5OT is coming over before I'm back to do a two radio NAQP contest using both his and my K3s so I won't have the computer back until Sunday morning. It seems like only yesterday since doing the last newsletter but it has been a very busy time. Judy and I had a terrific vacation in Philadelphia and the evening we returned I went into action as an Army MARS member supporting communications with hurricane Dolly. That lasted several days. N8LP created a wonderful hardware / software project called LP-PAN that leverages Flex Radio / Softrock software to bring a panoramic display with lots goodies to the K3 experience – that came in while we were gone so have been busy with that. And I'm behind and working hard on promised QST article on the new Winlink system.

My point in saying all that is that we have a very cool hobby with more things to have fun with or contribute with than any person has time to do. We all got a real reminder on the limits of time this month when Chuck Burt KC5RPH was killed on his motorcycle.... This is your monthly nag from me to put that periscope up and think about what new thing you might want to do in our hobby. And also think about what you do that might be interesting to club members and sign up to do a program – the most challenging part in coming up with a good program is whittling it down to fit into a 30 to 45 minute time slot!

Speaking of programs, we have a good one this month. There's been a lot of conversation on the reflector about the best way to solder a PL-259 connector to coax. Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX, is going to show us various ways of Soldering PL-259 Connectors. We may even have several new suggestions from the audience so please attend.

That's it! Time to head down the road for Summerfest after a quick breakfast with the stalwarts at the Village Inn.

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

August 2008 Contest Calendar

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 1
TARA Grid Dip Shindig	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 2
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3
National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest	0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 9
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 2
European HF Championship	200Z-2359Z, Aug 2
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 2 to 1800Z, Aug 3
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 2 to 0600Z, Aug 3
RSGB RoPoCo 2	0700Z-0900Z, Aug 3
SARL HF Phone Contest	1300Z-1630Z, Aug 3
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 9 to 2359Z, Aug 10
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 9 to 0400Z, Aug 10 and 1600Z-2359Z, Aug 10
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 10
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 13
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Aug 16 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 16 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 17
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 16 to 2400 local, Aug 17
Russian District Award Contest	0800Z, Aug 16 to 0800Z, Aug 17
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z, Aug 16 to 1200Z, Aug 17
Feld Hell Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Aug 16
ARCI Silent Key Memorial Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Aug 16
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 16 to 0600Z, Aug 17
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 16 to 0700Z, Aug 17 and 1300Z, Aug 17 to 0200Z, Aug 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 18
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 23 to 2200Z, Aug 24
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 27
ALARA Contest	0600Z, Aug 30 to 1159Z, Aug 31
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 30 to 1159Z, Aug 31
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 30 to 1200Z, Aug 31
SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Aug 31

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OWNED EQUIPMENT

Reviewed July 3, 2008

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 - K7RV, Don Schliesser - 15 Jul 08

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 - N5TW, Tom Whiteside, 3 Jul 08

1 Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical - W5TA, Dick Foster - 20-Nov-05

1 Hygain triband antenna - N5TW, Tom Whiteside, 3 Jul 08

1 Mosley Triband Antenna (Donated by Harvey, N0AJP) - N5TW, Tom Whiteside, 3 Jul 08

Masts

1 Push Up Mast - KC5RPF, Ken Larsen - 23-Nov-05

2 Push Up Masts - N5TW, Tom Whiteside, 3 Jul 08

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