



WCARC NEWS

September, 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

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Tom Whiteside, N5TW

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Rick Trommer, W5NR

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Kees Talen, K5BCQ

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Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

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Rick Trommer, W5NR

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Farmer, W9BF

Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

August Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2008

WCARC Vice President Rick Trommer W5NR started the August meeting and welcomed everyone, including guest and Wesleyan Retirement Home resident Pauline Miller who was visiting for the second time. Also visiting was Chris Wood KE5VVK, a new amateur operator, and John Reynolds, who was visiting to learn more about the Club and ham radio. Rick was filling in for Tom Whiteside N5TW who was ill. 20 attendees answered the roll call while 21 signed the log sheet. 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:

July, 2008

Beginning Balance:	\$2,120.83
Receipts/Deposits:	\$198.00
Expenditures:	\$121.86
Ending Balance:	\$2,196.97
ARES Funds Available:	\$580.21
WCARC Funds " ":	\$1,616.76
	(YTD -\$323)

Paid Membership, 2008

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	62	69
Family	24	25
Honorary	3	3
Total	87	97
(YTD +2)		
Voting Total	113	122
Total Persons	118	127

ARES – Jim Russell, NQ5L

ARES is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and it provides backup communications to the county's agencies and other agencies in the area. A Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is coming up in October, so come to the

meeting and learn what amateur radio emergency communication is all about. 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, east of I-35.

Repeater Report – Rick Trommer W5NR for Tom Whiteside NT5W
The Club repeater is working and can be found on 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

Contests and DX Report

Donald Schliesser K6RV - 40 meters has been very active, especially late at night. Also, 6 meters was open and he worked two local operators and one in Minnesota as his first contacts.
Dick Foster W5TA - QRP contests include the Silent Key Memorial Contest, a 3-hour sprint on the 16th from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Bob Farmer W9BF - Check the newsletter for information on upcoming contests. E-skip propagation during the summer has been good and he made contact on 6 meter sideband with Portugal. ARRL QSO online updates on Logbook of the World (LoTW) have been fast. Once operators on both sides of the conversation enter their information, LoTW will show a confirmation of the QSO.

New Business

Fall Picnic - Rick Trommer W5NR asked the Club about dates and brisket choices desired for the picnic. After some discussion, it was decided that Rick would cook brisket and sausage would also be provided. Sides will be brought by attending members. The picnic will be held on October 11th at the Arbors.
Polo Shirts - Kees Talen K5BCQ took orders for polo shirts.

Old Business /Special Events & Announcements

New Extra Class Operator- Dallas Mellichamp KD4HNX announced that Renee' Stennett N5RNA made Extra Class. Congratulations, Renee'!

Summerfest - Kees Talen K5BCQ said that 30 people attended the license exams. All but one of the tables was sold. Also, even though hotel room rates and gas prices were much higher in the past, overall attendance was approximately what it has been in previous years. In addition to testing at Summerfest, AustinHams.org has schedules for other testing opportunities.

Refreshments

August - Rick Trommer W5NR provided

September – Dean Hamilton K5FDH

Programs – Rick Trommer W5NR

Please contact Rick with your program ideas.

August - Dallas Mellichamp, KD4NHX, presented a program on Soldering PL-259 Connectors

September - President Tom Whiteside N5TW will give a presentation on the SGC Antenna Coupler

President's Column

Can you believe it is September already? Actually, it is still the tail end of August as I'm writing this while keeping an eye on what is expected to become hurricane Gustav. I'm on call to go man the State Operation Center MARS station so writing this a bit earlier than normal just in case!

My thanks to Rick Trommer W5NR for running last month's meeting for me. I picked up some "Yankee crud" on our Philadelphia vacation and had the darnedest time shaking it – it is GREAT to be feeling back to normal!

One of the things that comes with the fall in addition to some (eventually) cooler weather is improved propagation conditions. There is still plenty of static on the low bands but propagation on 40, 30 and 20 meters has been getting better. I mentioned a new toy last month – a panadapter add-on for the Elecraft K3. Well, it is great to see lots more signals on that panadapter with the beginning of fall radio conditions. Give the bands a try!

Rick has a great program lined up for the September meeting – at least I hope you like it! A couple of months ago, I put up a lightning / weather hardened auto tuned wire antenna up that has been working great and the program is on that project. You never thought you'd see me presenting a stealth antenna project but this kind of antenna has great possibilities for a very efficient stealth antenna.

Hope to see everyone at the 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

September 2008 Contest Calendar

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 1 to 0300Z, Sep 2
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 5
International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 5 to 2300Z, Sep 7
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 6 to 2400Z, Sep 7
Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 6
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 6
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Sep 6 and 0430Z-0459Z, Sep 6 and 0500Z-0529Z, Sep 6 and 0530Z-0600Z, Sep 6
RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 6 to 1300Z, Sep 7
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 6
IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 6 to 1259Z, Sep 7
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 7
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 11
FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend	0000Z, Sep 12 to 2400Z, Sep 14
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 12
PODXS 070 Club 80m Autumn Sprint	2000 local, Sep 12 to 0200 local, Sep 13
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 13
Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 13 to 0600Z, Sep 14 and 1500Z-2400Z, Sep 14
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, Sep 15
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 14
ARCI End of Summer Digital Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Sep 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 18
YLRL Howdy Days	1400Z, Sep 18 to 0200Z, Sep 20
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 19
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Sep 20 to 2359Z, Sep 21
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 20 to 2400 local, Sep 21
Colorado QSO Party	1000Z, Sep 20 to 0400Z, Sep 21
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1000Z, Sep 20 to 1000Z, Sep 21
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
CIS DX Contest	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 20 to 2100Z, Sep 21
QRP Afield	1500Z-2100Z, Sep 15
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 20 to 0700Z, Sep 21 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 21
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 20 to 1800Z, Sep 21
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Sep 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 22
144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 24
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 24
BCC QSO Party	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 26
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Sep 27 to 1200Z, Sep 28
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 to 0200Z, Sep 28 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 28
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Sep 27 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Sep 27 (432)
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Sep 28
222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 30

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