



# WCARC NEWS

October, 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

**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

## September Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2008  
WCARC President Tom Whiteside N5TW started the September meeting and began the roll call. 28 answered the roll call and 25 signed the log. Four visitors were present: Alex Alexander G1ANT, Bobby Boykin KE5VYB, Chris Wood KE5VNK, and John Reynolds. Tom Whiteside recounted his experience at the State Operations Center during Hurricane Gustav and President Bush's visit to the center. 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. During the report, it was mentioned that, thanks to efforts by Dallas Mellichamp KD4HNX, Ham-Com internet advertising revenue was received by the Club. A summary follows:

August, 2008

Beginning Balance:	\$2,196.76
Receipts/Deposits:	\$591.55
Expenditures:	\$299.51
Ending Balance:	\$2,489.01
ARES Funds Available:	\$580.21
WCARC Funds " ":	\$1,908.80
	(YTD -\$140)

Paid Membership, 2008

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	69	69
Family	25	27
Honorary	3	3
Total	97	99
(YTD +12)		
Voting Total	122	125
Total Persons	127	131

New members include:  
Anthony Lanni KE5VUX and Nancy Lanni  
Steve Tonnesen N5DDT and Cindee  
Tonnesen KE5VYH

**WCARES** – Jim Russell NQ5L  
Fortunately, Hurricane Gustav did not adversely impact Central Texas but two more storms are developing and deserve watching. The fall SET is coming in October as is the Outlaw Trail 100 bicycle ride. As part of the support effort, ARES is working on an APRS project. On September 20th, people will be working on radio and software setups. WCARES meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month, at 7 PM, at Round Rock Fire Station #6 on Joe DiMaggio Drive, just west of the Dell Diamond on Highway 79, east of I-35. 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** – Tom Whiteside  
The Club repeater is working and can be found on 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz. Tom noted that repeater usage is increasing, which is encouraged.

**Contests and DX Report**  
Tom Whiteside said DX is up with fall propagation. Evening activity on 20 meters has been increasing, with contact of Russia over the North Pole as an example. Brad Davis NA5BD commented on the lack of sunspot activity, which Tom said led to good low band conditions. Tom also reminded members to check the Contests section of the newsletter that Bob Farmer W9BF maintains.

**Old Business /Special Events & Announcements**  
Fall Picnic - Rick Trommer W5NR reported all-day reservations were made for an area at The Arbors in San Gabriel Park for the 11th of October. Start time will be 5 PM. Rick will be up early to cook briskets for the event.

## **New Business**

- QSL Cards – Tom Whiteside said Robert Brandon K5PI has delivered a proposal for getting 1000 QSL cards for the Club at a cost of \$74 through a supplier the Club has used before. The call sign would be WC5T. Greg Worthington AG5W is the trustee and commented that past card quality from the supplier has been good. Dick Foster W5TA suggested that the cards should use Greg's home address rather than the Club's PO Box. Dick also suggested having the FISTS number on the card. Tom agreed and proposed buying the cards, which was approved by the members.
- Exams for new hams – Dallas Mellichamp KD4HNX said Round Rock Hospital had about ten students ready to take the test in an effort to challenge other area organizations. Dallas will look for teachers shortly and wants to plan a test and last training class the Saturday before Thanksgiving as we move the cycle back to the beginning of November. Tom Whiteside has volunteered to teach and commented that he thought that the "slam" methods to get people through a test quickly were not as effective as the slower process to get new hams indoctrinated into the amateur radio culture and what it means to be a ham. When asked about the teaching agenda, Dallas said that the ARRL provides a teaching guide for orders of 15 or more books.
- Brad Davis NA5BD said the new Seton Hospital in Round Rock is almost ready to be brought online and will have digi-peat capability. It is situated on one of the highest points in the county. Tom Whiteside added that, when that station is brought online, Williamson County will have more WinLink servers than any other location in the world.

## **Refreshments**

October – Scott Hamende KD5JX

**Programs** – Rick Trommer W5NR

October - Vertical Antennas - Dick Foster W5TA

September - Stealth, Lightning & Weather-Hardened Antenna – Tom Whiteside N5TW

*Please contact Rick with your program ideas.*

## **President's Column**

Welcome to the October WCARC newsletter! My thanks to Bob Farmer W9BF for getting it put together and Tim Stevens KD5WML for his painstaking monthly transcription of the meeting minutes! This has been another big month for emergency service duty – we have sure had a succession of storms head our way! With Hurricane Ike and all the refugees herded our way, we had the County Emergency Operation Center and the Round Rock Emergency center up and manned with WC-ARES members. If the idea of getting involved and helping with emergency communication has any appeal to you, there are a number of upcoming chances to get in on the action. I think you will find this service both worthwhile and fun! The first is the ARES annual "Simulated Emergency Test" or SET coming up the morning of October 11th. This is a great chance for a newbie to deploy to an EOC or supported hospital under the wing of a more experienced person and get some real training. Another is the Outlaw 100 bike race the weekend after that on October 18th. Let Jim Russell NQ5L know if you want to play!

Speaking of October 11th, don't forget to be part of the club picnic! It will be held at the Arbors in San Gabriel Park in Georgetown with the chow down starting at 5PM. Thanks to Rick Trommer W5NR, our hardworking VP, for cooking the brisket for the event and doing all the leg work to handle the reservations! We ask that you bring a side and a desert to go along with it as usual! I'll be off at the state US Army MARS meeting that day but will use the picnic as a good reason to scoot early to get to the picnic – see you there! Another fall activity to put on your calendar is the fall Belton Hamfest coming up October 4th. Many of us will be getting in breakfast at the Wolf Ranch Village Inn before heading that way – the more the merrier! Folks usually start gathering there about 6:15AM.

We had a very nice surprise at our Village Inn breakfast Saturday morning when Bill Sepulveda K5LN and John Fabac N5MX turned up! Bill and John have not been active in a while and it was terrific to see them. Bill and Rick Trommer W5NR taught the Morse Code class that led to me getting my ticket and a whole bunch of fun. John was a test session signer for that first license and also helped me teach a code class. Many of our members came from club sponsored license classes or test sessions. Well, our club has a chance to make that kind of difference and create some more long term friendships with another license class that Dallas is organizing. I really appreciate the response at the last club meeting of folks wanting to help with that. Dallas will have more details for us on that opportunity at the club meeting hopefully!

Rick has another great program lined up for us. Dick Foster W5TA is going to do a talk on vertical antennas that you won't want to miss! Hope to see everyone at the meeting!

73, Tom Whiteside N5TW

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## 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

### October 2008 Contest Calendar

RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 1
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 3
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 4
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5
International HELL-Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Oct 4 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 5 (40m)
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 4
California QSO Party	600Z, Oct 4 to 2159Z, Oct 5
UBA ON Contest, 6m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 5
432 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 9
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 10
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB 1400Z,	Oct 10 to 0200Z, Oct 12
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Oct 11 and 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 11 and 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 12
Oceania DX Contest,	CW 0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12
EU Autumn Sprint,	CW 1600Z-1959Z, Oct 11
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 0500Z, Oct 12 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 12
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 11
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 12
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 12
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 17
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 19
ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 19
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1459Z, Oct 19
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	2000 local, Oct 18 to 0200 local, Oct 19
Feld Hell Sprint	2200Z-2400Z, Oct 18
50 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Oct 18 to 0300Z, Oct 19
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 19
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 20
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 20 to 2400Z, Oct 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 22
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 22
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26
10-10 Int. Fall Contest	0001Z, Oct 25 to 2359Z, Oct 26
Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1200 local, Oct 25

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 - K6RV, 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