

WCARC NEWS

December, 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

November Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2008
WCARC President Tom Whiteside N5TW started the November meeting by announcing that some of the members were off preparing for an emergency drill in Burnet County. Tom acknowledged Fred Neff WE7M for donating four HF transceivers that were sold to raise money for the Club and keep the dues down. One visitor was present: George Shamblin WA5CSH. Twenty-three responded to the roll call and signed the log. 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. *The dues cycle for next year is beginning now.* A summary follows:

October, 2008

Beginning Balance:	\$2,563.40
Receipts/Deposits:	\$235.00
Expenditures:	\$479.30
Ending Balance:	\$2,319.10
ARES Funds Available:	\$580.21
WCARC Funds " ":	\$1,738.89
	(YTD +\$169.11)

Paid Membership, 2008


	Beginning	Ending
Individual	69	69
Family	27	27
Honorary	3	3
Total	99	99
(YTD +7)		
Voting Total	125	125
Total Persons	131	131

WCARES – Tom Whiteside NT5W
Jim Russell NQ5L is off with the ARES members preparing for a CAPCOG (Capital Area Council of Governments) drill. The event is to be a CBRNE drill (Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and

Nuclear Event) based out of Burnet County. Winlink and the Packet Cavalry are expected to be used extensively. 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. The 146.64 repeater is used for talk-in.

Repeater Report – Tom Whiteside
The Club repeater is working and is on 146.64 MHz with a tone of 162.2 Hz.

Contests and DX Report -- John Warren NT5C

John reported that the DXpeditions to the Indian  lands benefitted from great low band conditions but they were difficult to work from the central US. Tom Whiteside N5TW happened on some great conditions to make a Zone 18 contact on 160 meters. Zone 18 is one the toughest to work zones for that band. John agreed that low band conditions had been outstanding and commented on the amazing scores achieved during CQ worldwide sideband contests on 160 and 80 meters. The CW worldwide contest is coming up at Thanksgiving, and it's the biggest of the year.

Old Business /Special Events & Announcements - Tom Whiteside N5TW

- Field Day Expense: replacement of Bob Farmer W9BF's gate – During Field Day, Coleman Callaway N4IM called on the air to request the opening of the gate. The gate opened by itself due to susceptibility to the radio transmission's interference. As Coleman drove through the gate, it closed because the transmission had ended. A trailer being towed in damaged the gate, so the gate was repaired as a Field Day expense after Bob found a great price (\$289). The Club approved the expense.

- Fall Picnic – Tom expressed the Club's thanks to Rick Trommer W5NR for his hard work on the picnic.

- Antenna Help – Last month John Warren NT5C announced that Mary Caruthers, XYL of former member Jim Caruthers W5HRB (SK), needed some help taking down and selling some antennas. Several members participated in a coordinated response and Tom expressed thanks to those who helped.
- Ham Class - Dallas Mellichamp KD4HNX said the new ham classes for Round Rock Medical Center will start soon and he is waiting on word from the hospital before moving forward.- Boy Scout Jamboree Activity - Paul Rawlins NE5PR coordinated Boy Scout involvement during the Outlaw Trail 100 and Tom commended his efforts.
- Discounted Antennas - Donald Schliesser K6RV arranged for 6 members to buy antennas at a discount with 7 delivered. Tom and the Club expressed their thanks for his work.
- Elections – Bob Redoutey N5KF will continue as Public Information Officer; Kees Talen K5BCQ has volunteered to continue as Treasurer; Rick Trommer W5NR has volunteered to run for President after Tom Whiteside steps down; Donald Schliesser K6RV has volunteered to run for the office of Vice President; Tim Stevens KD5WML will step down from the Secretary position, so anyone interested in this position should contact Tom Whiteside. The officer election will take place in December after discussion.
- Polo Shirts – Kees Talen K5BCQ said he still had some polo shirts that have not been claimed.

New Business

- Swapfest – Rick Trommer W5NR discussed the history and planning of the Georgetown Swapfest. Due to a recent, slight decline in attendance, he is checking into less expensive venues and food services. Rick contacted the VFW Post near San Gabriel Park which should satisfy the space requirements at a better price. The VFW Post is not part of the City Park Service so tailgating would be permitted in the parking lot. He is also discussing with the VFW the possibility of them providing breakfast, snacks, coffee, etc. He added that, historically, the event is held on Super Bowl Sunday, but this time he suggested holding the event on a Saturday so that people attending church would have the opportunity to go to the Swapfest. The date needs to be firmed up soon so that it can be announced in the February QST. The Saturday following the first meeting in February was tentatively selected for the Swapfest.
- QSL Cards - Dallas Mellichamp KD4HNX started discussion about Field Day QSL cards, and it was mentioned that there had only been one request for a card recently.

Refreshments

November – Dallas Mellichamp KD4HNX
 December – Kees Talen K5BCQ

Programs – Rick Trommer W5NR

November - 1940s – How Women Entered the Military & Radio Range Navigation used by Pilots -- Linky Brokhausen N5AKJ, introduced by John Warren NT5C
Please contact Rick with your program ideas.

President's Column

Welcome to the December WCARC newsletter. This is my final "President's Column" as we will be electing a new slate of officers at the December meeting. Serving as club president has been a pleasure and privilege! All the folks stepping forward and volunteering for things has made the job easy. Particular thanks are due to VP Rick Trommer who has done a great deal all year. His latest contribution is a great start on next year's swapfest – thanks Rick!

Part of what we are required by the bylaws to do is to bring a good slate of candidates forward, and I'm very pleased with the list of folks that have stepped forward to run for office next term. We have the following slate:

President: Rick Trommer W5NR
 Vice President: Don Schliesser K6RV
 Secretary: Al Kirchner KE5OIZ
 Treasurer: Kees Talen K5BCQ (current Treasurer)
 Public Information Officer: Bob Redoubtey N5KF (existing PIO)

Of course, nominations from the floor are welcome as well at the meeting.

One of the wonderful things that Kees Talen K5BCQ has been doing for our club and the ARES group is selling donated ham gear for us. I'd like to acknowledge Fred Neff WE7M for donating 4 transceivers for sale to the club. Great job, Fred!

As I am typing this, it is a chilly day at the end of November and my head is a little foggy from a long drive from Albuquerque, NM. On this somewhat cold day, it is hard to think back to the hot Field Day weekend but please

think back to that fun time with me. The latest QST shows that we came in 24th out of the 487 2A category entries which is in the top 5 percentile. We won the ARRL South Texas section 2A category and, in fact, had the highest STX score in any category! Not too shabby for our serious fun category which emphasized participation and operating time for anyone that wanted to get on the air!

Thanks to Dallas KD4HNX for bringing refreshments to the last meeting and to Kees Talen K5BCQ for volunteering for next month's refreshments.

Our program this month is a chance for everyone to participate. Each person will be given a chance to say a few words about how they got started in ham radio and to tell us a little about your Elmer. Should be great fun!

Hope to see everyone at the meeting!

73 Tom Whiteside N5TW

December 2008 Contest Calendar

ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 2
ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z-0600Z, Dec 4
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 5
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
TARA RTTY Melee	000Z-2400Z, Dec 6
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Dec 6 and 0430Z-0459Z, Dec 6 and 0500Z-0529Z, Dec 6 and 0530Z-0600Z, Dec 6
TOPS Activity Contest	1600Z, Dec 6 to 1759Z, Dec 7
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 10
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally	0000Z, Dec 11 to 0200Z, Dec 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 12
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2400Z, Dec 14
MDXA PSK DeathMatch	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2400Z, Dec 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 14
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 19
AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 19
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z-2300Z, Dec 19
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	0001Z, Dec 20 to 2359Z, Jan 4
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 20 to 1400Z, Dec 21
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 20 to 1559Z, Dec 21
Feld Hell Sprint	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 20
ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 24
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
RAEM Contest	0200Z-0959Z, Dec 28

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

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