



WCARC NEWS

March, 2009

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County
Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644
Georgetown, TX 78627

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WCARC Officers

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Rick Trommer, W5NR

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Donald Schliesser, K6RV

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Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HNX

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Donald Schliesser, K6RV

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Farmer, W9BF

Emergency Coordinator

Jim Russell, NQ5L

February Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2008

WCARC President Rick Trommer W5NR called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Twenty-six members answered the roll call. Barry Atkins, N4QW, and Scott Valencia were visitors. Scott planned to take his license exam at the Swapfest.

Harvey, N0AJP, made a motion to accept the January minutes as posted on the web. A motion was seconded and voted in favor,

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

January, 2009

Beginning Balance:	\$7585.72
Receipts/Deposits:	\$20.00
Expenditures:	\$20.00
TCARES	\$2253.78
Liability Insurance	\$320.00
Ending Balance:	\$5011.94
WCARES Funds Available:	\$2,833.99
WCARC Funds Available:	\$2,177.95
(+\$1,117.47 YTD)	

Paid Membership a/o 02/01/2009

	Beginning	Ending
Individual	69	67
Family	27	27
Honorary	3	3
Total	99	97
Voting Total	125	123
Total Persons	131	129

President Trommer reported that Tom Whiteside, N5TW, and Jim Russell, NQ5L, were ill and no Repeater or WCARES reports were forthcoming.

Contests and DX Report

Don, K6RV, made comments about the 6

meter opening and that it was the best opening this year

Old Business /Special Events & Announcements

Rick Trommer W5NR thanked Kees for filling the Club's ARRL insurance. Rick called on Dallas, KD4HNX to speak about the Technician Ham Class. Dallas reported that we had 23 students and Scott Valencia was one of them. They are scheduled to take their VE exam on Saturday at the Swapfest. Scott commented that he had talked with the students, and that 8 were going to take their exam at the Swapfest. Dallas is working on the 2nd Tech Class Roster and a Roster for a General Class. **Please see the notice on the last page of this newsletter for the announcement.** Tom, N5TW, has purchased both the Tech/General Instructor's Manual and a General License Manual for the instructors to use. Dallas will start the next class on March 21st.

Club Picnic - Saturday, April 25th, at the San Gabriel Park, the weekend after Belton Swapfest. Rick has asked for a group to call all members and remind them of the event. We are to think about what type of food and how much we want for the picnic. The picnic is to start around 4:30-5:00 pm. Steve, WK5S, offered to bring a radio.

VEs for the Swapfest - Dave, N5IW, was concerned about the number of VEs that were out sick. He needs 3 ARRL VE's that did not train at the Ham Classes.

The exams are to start at 8:00 AM. The VE Session fee is \$15.00 cash or check, no credit cards. CSCE's are to bring their original and a copy to turn in. VE's have to bring their ARRL accreditation.

New Business

Spirit Reins Ranch – Ride for the Ranch,

Saturday, March 14th, the 64 mile bike ride needs about a dozen hams with 2m radios for SAG wagons and Net Control. All need to be on site at 7:30 am as the ride starts at 8:00 AM. Free Lunch and T-Shirt are provided, Bring radio and mag mount antenna. This is to support the group that supplies our Field Day site. Dave, N5IW added comments that we really need to support this bike ride since they supply such a wonderful Field Day site.

Refreshments

February - Jim Russell NQ5L

March - Scott Valencia

Programs – Donald Schliesser K6RV

February - John, W5GI, Chief Operations Officer of Software Defined Radio gave a fine presentation on What's New in Software Defined Radio.

March - Jim Russell, NQ5L, whose subject will be: " REMOTE CAPABILITY FOR THE AMATEUR HOME STATION USING VOIP".

Please contact Don with your program ideas.

Scott Valencia made comments about how hard it is to get into the hobby. He stated he and seven others have visited other meetings and felt left out. They were welcomed but nobody talked to the visitors and half left before the meeting was over. He is having a hard time finding an Elmer to help get him on the air. He offered to help setup an Elmer's Club to get folks on the air. He would like to see Ham Radio grow and that you don't hear about Ham Radio in the news. Kees, brought up that he could bring his radio to meetings, breakfast or discuss the subject on the email reflectors. Scott continued to make comments about how we need to grow our membership and Elmer new folks in to the hobby.

President's Column

Here we are going into March with another series of events! As I look back I'm reminded at what we did last month. Dallas (KD4HNX) has completed one series of classes, and he has scheduled another Technician... and he is working on a General class.... My thanks to Dallas and all of the instructors who made this possible. and my thanks to all of you, who are willing to sign up for the next group of classes.

The Technician class testing session was under the control of Dave (N5IW) and held at the WCARC Swapfest. This, too, was another great success for Dave and his team of VE's. Please make every effort to thank these folks the next time you see them!

The WCARC Swapfest was another great event, and my thanks to everyone who helped and supported this club event. My special thanks goes to Cliff (WB5DYA) and Lenore for the door prizes, for without their efforts this event would lose most of the fun that this event is meant to bring to our club members. Lenore's ability to sell tickets to almost everyone who came thru the door is outstanding. Again, my special thanks to Cliff and Lenore!

The Swapfest is run by the club and the folks who volunteer to help move tables, chairs and trash cans and then come back at the end of the day and ask what they can do to help clean up the facility makes this event (for me) one of the best reasons to put myself back in the running to put on this event next year. This year we had some 200+ folks inside the VFW hall and for the most part, everyone had a great time. Let's find out what the club would like to do to better the number of buyers, sellers and lookers at next years event. Remember this is a club event. So with that, what would you like the club to do that would make this a better event next year?

As we head into March we are that much closer to our Spring picnic. This event will be held at the Park at area A, the Large Arbors, on April 25. I need everyone to think about FOOD!!! What would you like to have at this years picnic? Give it some thought, and please be ready to tell us what we need to bring. Along with this we need to get a group together and call up all of our members about a week before the picnic just to invite them and to remind them of this Spring picnic.

The club is looking for someone to kickoff our Field Day event. This year's Field Day is the 27-28 of June. As we did last year, let's make this another fun-filled weekend for WCARC.

That's about it for now, our club is growing, and we need your thoughts and ideas to be known, so please if you can, plan to attend the next WCARC club meeting.

73, Rick W5NR

March 2009 Contest Calendar

SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest 1200Z-1400Z, Mar 1
North Carolina QSO Party 1700Z, Mar 1 to 0300Z, Mar 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
ARS Spartan Sprint 0200Z-0400Z, Mar 3
AGCW YL-CW Party 1900Z-2100Z, Mar 4
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Mar 6
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0400Z-0429Z, Mar 7 and
0430Z-0459Z, Mar 7 and
0500Z-0529Z, Mar 7 and
0530Z-0600Z, Mar 7
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship 2200Z-2359Z, Mar 7 (Low Band) and
0000Z-0159Z, Mar 8 (Low Band) and
0800Z-1159Z, Mar 8 (High Band)
SKCC Weekend Sprint 0000Z-2400Z, Mar 8
UBA Spring Contest, CW 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest 1100Z-1700Z, Mar 8
NSARA Contest 1100Z-1500Z, Mar 8 and
1700Z-2100Z, Mar 8
CLARA HF Contest 1700Z, Mar 10 to 1700Z, Mar 11 and
1700Z, Mar 14 to 1700Z, Mar 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Mar 13
HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest 1830Z-1900Z, Mar 13 (80m) and
1900Z-1930Z, Mar 13 (40m)
RSGB Commonwealth Contest 1000Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
AGCW QRP Contest 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 14
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint 1500Z-1800Z, Mar 14
EA PSK31 Contest 1600Z, Mar 14 to 1600Z, Mar 15
SOC Marathon Sprint 1800Z-2400Z, Mar 14
Idaho QSO Party 1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
UBA Spring Contest, 6m 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 15
Wisconsin QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0200Z-0400Z, Mar 16
Bucharest Contest 1600Z-1729Z, Mar 16 and
1730Z-1859Z, Mar 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0130Z-0330Z, Mar 19
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB 2000Z-2130Z, Mar 19
Feld Hell Sprint 0000Z-2400Z, Mar 21
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest 0001Z-2359Z, Mar 21
BARTG HF RTTY Contest 0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
SARL VHF/UHF Contest 1000Z, Mar 21 to 1000Z, Mar 22
Russian DX Contest 1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
Oklahoma QSO Party 1300Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22 and
1300Z-1900Z, Mar 22
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1600Z-1900Z, Mar 21 (144) and
1900Z-2100Z, Mar 21 (432)
North Dakota QSO Party 1700Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22
Virginia QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 23
UBA Spring Contest, 2m 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
9K 15-Meter Contest 1200Z-1600Z, Mar 22
QRP Homebrewer Sprint 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 23
SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Mar 25
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 28 to 2359Z, Mar 29

WCARC Meetings

1st Thursdays - 7:30 PM

Wesleyan Retirement Home
139 Estrella Crossing
Georgetown, TX 78626

Join Us For Breakfast

Saturdays at 6:30AM
for January 31
Monument Cafe
500 S. Austin Avenue
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

Free Ham Radio Classes

The Austin Amateur Radio Club and the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club will be hosting free Ham Radio classes to prepare you to earn your Technician (entry level) FCC Amateur Radio License. General upgrade classes will also be given at the same time/locations.

The Technician license is your gateway to the world-wide excitement of Amateur Radio...
... and now you do NOT need to learn Morse code!

Saturday Classes begin on March 21st at 8:00 AM until 12:00 noon at the Round Rock Medical Center (hospital).

Weekday Evening Classes, (Mon. Wed. Fri.) start May 4th at 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the Combined Transportation and Emergency Communications Center, CTECC, in Austin.

Registration is required so contact:

Dallas, KD4HNX@arrl.net or Jeff N5MNW@arrl.net to register for a class or request more information about future classes.

Visit: <http://www.austinhams.org> for more details on books, lesson plans, maps, practice exams, etc...

