



# WCARC NEWS

February, 2012

www.wcarc.com

Williamson County  
Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1644  
Georgetown, TX 78627

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## WCARC Officers

### President

Jim Russell, NQ5L

### Vice-President

Len, Leslie, KF5ELB

### Secretary

Madison Jones, W5MJ

### Treasurer

Kees Talen, K5BCQ

## WCARC Staff

### Newsletter Editor

Bob Farmer, W9BF

### Webmaster

Dave Hassell, N5IW

### Guest Speaker Committee

Len Leslie, KF5ELB

Tom Whiteside, N5TW

Bob Farmer, W9BF

### Emergency Coordinator

Jim Hester, K5HTK

## January Meeting Minutes

### January 5, 2012

President Jim Russell, NQ5L, in his first official action as Club President for 2012 called the vociferous audience to order at precisely 7:30 pm. Roll call of attendees ensued with 44 separate voices individually responding. Visitor Layne Crow was recognized with an encouraging applause. Note: only 39 members signed the pass-around list. Please sign or we may lose government funding!..

The December meeting minutes were accepted by the membership.

**Treasurer's Report** – Kees Talen, K5BCQ  
Kees announced that Club dues are due! Many of our deep-pocket members dutifully lined up at the break and opened their checkbooks. Kees reported that prior to the meeting he had received \$160 in dues and \$57.01 miscellaneous receipts. With expenditures in December of \$23.51, our treasury totals \$4256.33. Of that amount, \$2689.09 accounts to WCARC and \$1567.35 to WCARES.

Total membership at end of 2011 stood at 131. Currently, we have 22 paid and 2 honorary members for a total of 24.

**WCARES Report** - Jim Hester, K5HTK, announced the next WCARES meeting at the RR Fire Dept. would be next week, January 12. Directions, etc. are located on the WCARES website.

Brad Davis, NA5BD, presented his idea that WCARES members have frequencies and tones of repeaters normally used imprinted on their business cards. He passed around an example. After review, the final choice will be distributed to WCARES members.

**Repeater Report** - In Tom's. N5TW. absence, Jim, NQ5L, gave the repeater report and advised our two repeaters are

alive, well, and underutilized. The frequencies are 146.64 MHZ and 145.45 MHZ. The tone for both is 162.2  
Stuart Rohre, K5KVH, reported that long-time technical support, Mark Stennett, NA6M, had relocated the Austin ARC's repeater.

**DX Report** - Bob Farmer, W9BF, said that 6m was alive and well with DX; locals worked VK and ZL recently.

### **Old Business /Special Events & Announcements**

- Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HDX, announced an upcoming Technician class this Saturday, January 7, at the the Round Rock hospital. A second s[ ] classes is to be held at Lakeway. Twenty attendees have already signed up. A desire has been expressed for holding General class training.

Former Prez, Rick Trommer, W5NR, continuing to contribute as our Swapfest Coordinator, gave an update on February 25th's upcoming WCARC Swapfest at San Gabriel Park. 100 tables are planned. VEC testing session is planned. Schedule includes a 7 am setup, doors open to the public at 8 am and VEC testing commences at 10 am. Lloyd Jeffries, K1LGJ, asked for VEC volunteers.

Steve Sparks, WK5S, informed that the San Antonio Swapfest is to be held in Schertz on January 14. The San Antonio club's website has more information. The meet starts at 8 am, ending at 2 pm. Tables are available for \$10 and admission is \$8 advance/\$10 at the door.

**New Business** - Lloyd, K1LGJ, discussed his role as the ARES Training Coordinator for South Texas ARES. A new online course is being offered by the ARRL for EE 001/002/003 certification. Course registrants require mentoring for the 1900 slides of the course. Lloyd will be offering a 3.5 hour session every week

for six weeks and is asking likely participants for input as to the best format for giving the course. He recommends purchasing the ARRL book.

Lloyd had a suggestion to the club for consideration. He suggests a "graduation package" for newly licensed hams be assembled to facilitate their becoming active in short order. Magazines, pamphlet with FAQ for newbies, publication manuals, application forms for local clubs, ARRL freebies, info on local clubs, DSTAR, WinLink, etc. could comprise the "package".

Rick Trommer, W5NR, brought up the Spring Picnic. After a brief discussion, April 28th at 5 pm was set as the target date for the semi-annual event in San Gabriel Park. More details to follow.

Jim, NQ5L, made a last pitch for dues to be paid to Kees.

Kees Talen provided refreshments for the evening.

The business portion of the meeting concluded, refreshments were had, and Jim Aprile, K5KND, entertained and educated the group with a program on his introduction to the hobby, his design and construction of a stealth, inverted-L, auto-tuned long wire and his station layout.

**Program for February** - Our VP, Len Leslie, KF5ELB, has put together a potpourri of YouTube ham radio videos sure to inform and entertain the club.

### President's Column

As a reminder, club dues are now due for 2012. It's a great value for \$10 in annual dues you can help support the Club, and participate in all of the club events. At the end of the year, we had over 100 paying members, which is great for spreading the fun of the club around to lots of participants. Please see Kees at the next meeting.

There was a great testing session on January 28. I'm not sure of the final count, but there were close to 30 people taking the test, and all except 1 passed. As most of you know, hams are renowned for their ability to come up with creative solutions when confronted by an unexpected circumstance. There was a bit of mass confusion as we tried to grade general class tests with a home made key. Come to the meeting Thursday, February 2 and here more of what happened. Let it be said that we (eventually) figured out how to do it.

The annual Swapfest held at San Gabriel Park is coming up on February 25. It's a great event and one of the club's main fund raising events. There will be lots of goodies to bargain for, and testing for anyone wanting to get a license or upgrade. We'll need help setting up and tearing down, so please volunteer to help out.

73, Jim NQ5L

<p><b>WCARC Meetings</b> 1st Thursdays - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Wesleyan Retirement Home 139 Estrella Crossing Georgetown, TX 78626</p>	<p><b>Join Us For Breakfast</b> Saturdays at 6:30AM IHOP Restaurant 750 S I-35 (in front of WalMart) Georgetown, TX 78626</p>	<p><b>WCARES Meetings</b> 2nd Thursdays - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Round Rock Fire Stn #6 2919 Joe DiMaggio Drive Round Rock, TX 78664</p>
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## February 2012 Contest Calendar

QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 1
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 3
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 3
YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW	0000Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 4 to 2400Z, Feb 5
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 4 to 1159Z, Feb 5
EPC WW DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 4 to 1200Z, Feb 5
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 4
FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 4
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 4
British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 4 to 0400Z, Feb 5
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 4 to 1759Z, Feb 5
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 7
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 8
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Feb 8
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 10
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 10
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 11 to 1000Z, Feb 12
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 11
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 11 to 1200Z, Feb 12
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 11 to 0300Z, Feb 12
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 11 to 0400Z, Feb 12 and 1200Z-2200Z, Feb 12
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 11
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 12
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Feb 12
Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 12 to 0800Z, Feb 13
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 17
PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	2000 local, Feb 14 to 0200 local, Feb 15
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 15
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 15
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 15
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 17
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 17
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 18 to 2400Z, Feb 19
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 18
AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2300Z, Feb 18 to 2300Z, Feb 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 22
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 22
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 24
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 24 to 2159Z, Feb 26
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 25 to 1800Z, Feb 26
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 25 to 1300Z, Feb 26
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 25 to 0300Z, Feb 26
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 26
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 26 to 0300Z, Feb 27
QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 29

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**OWNED EQUIPMENT**  
Reviewed Jan 29, 2012

**QTY—DESCRIPTION—LAST LOCATION—DATE**

***Tower Work***

1 Gin Pole - KE5RS, John - 29 Jan 2012  
1 Tower Step - W5NR, Rick Trommer - 5 May 2007

***Antenna measurement***

1 MFJ Antenna Analyzer - K6RV, Don Schliesser - 15 Jul 2008  
1 MFJ Grid Dip Adapter W5TA, Dick Foster - 20 Nov 2005

***HF Antennas***

1 Cushcraft 6-el. 440MHz Beam - NQ5L, Jim Russell - 28 May 2011  
1 Cushcraft R7 HF Vertical - KF5AKF, Jason Koliba - 28 Oct 2010  
1 Hygain triband antenna - NQ5L, Jim Russell - 28 May 2011  
1 Mosley Triband Antenna (Donated by Harvey, N0AJP) - N5TW, Tom Whiteside, 3 Jul 2008

***Masts***

1 Push Up Mast - KC5RPF, Ken Larsen - 23 Nov 2005  
2 Push Up Masts - NQ5L, Jim Russell - 28 May 2011

***Power Supplies***

1 20 Amp Power Supply - KB7UQD, Jim Mischel - 4 Aug 2007

***Miscellaneous***

2 Heavy Duty Power Cords - K5HTK, Jim Hester - 24 Nov 2005  
7 Sections (approx 64 ft each) Field Day rope - NA5BD, Brad Davis - 14 Jul 2011