

Repeaters
2m: 145.410-
70cm: 441.650+(110.9p)



THE ELLIS COUNTY REPEATER

Official Newsletter for the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club
www.wd5ddh.org

April 2005
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Monthly Events

R.A.C.E.S Training Net
First Thursday at
7:30pm on 145.410

ECARC Information Net
Second Thursday at
7:30pm on 145.410

ECARC Club Meeting
Third Thursday at
7:30pm

President's Pen



It's spring time again. The clouds will assault us with lightning and rain. High winds, hail and yes, maybe even a twister or two. This should be one of our best years for storm spotting. We are

growing and the more trained eyes we have in the field the better job we can do. With our increased numbers we should be able to include backup net-control operators and loggers. We might also be able to incorporate a liaison station or two to contact other surrounding EOCs as well. These thoughts really come under the heading of RACES which is being led by Bob Fitch.

Spring time is also a time of renewal and growth. This is a target for us to shoot at as a club. We have people filling spots that have been vacated. Our thanks go to Kenny Hickey for taking the position of Treasurer and to Bob Fitch for taking over RACES. Let's make it a point to support and help anyway we can.

I looked at our numbers today and we are somewhere around 45 members. It won't be long before we will be able to create more new positions and take some of the load off those members who are filling numerous spots now. The more we spread out the work load the better job we can do. With members specializing in a single task there will be less hours of work and more hours of radio operation. That's after all what we are here for.

We have many activities in the next couple of months. Check elsewhere in this newsletter for details. Try to find something that fits your style and jump in. We have monthly planning meetings that are open to all. While it's the planning committee's job to be there and do the work, we welcome any and all input from club members.

Our club meeting attendance is getting better and better. I would like to thank everyone who is currently attending and welcome those of you who have not been able to make it to give it a try. We have had a good list of presentations and programs that expose us to the more useful aspects of our hobby.

Get on the air!

73

Mark Frankie KA5TBK

March Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The March club meeting was held Thursday, March 17 at the normal time and place with 21 members present. The March presentation was given by Keith Pugh W5IU on AMSAT. Keith flooded the room with facts and details about amateur radio and satellite communication. We all learned a great deal from his knowledge on the subject. Terry Dowd KE5APL gave an overview of the club's participation in the ARRL International DX contest in early March. Terry informed us that over 240 contacts were made in over 60 DXCC entities.

After the evening's entertainment it was time to get down to business. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes of the February meeting and the members present voted to accept them as read. Jon Hykel KM5PZ gave a report from the Planning Committee. A lot of things are happening this time of year. Please attend one of the Planning Committee meetings and lend your support and ideas to the club. Robert Crosby KD5YHY gave a brief report from the Education Committee on a CW class. There seems to be some movement in this area. Be sure to be at April's club meeting for more details. Your new Treasurer Kenny Hickey KD5VQN submitted a very nice itemized report of the club's finances. The Repeater Committee reported that the Midland is still sick and will require more work. The Bylaws Committee presented Club Officers with a draft proposal for updated bylaws.

The next club meeting is Thursday, April 21. I look forward to seeing you there.

ECARC Bylaws

The Ellis County Amateur Radio Club's Bylaws have been under review for over a year now. It was requested to review the Bylaws for relevance, conciseness, and ability to assist the club if it applied for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.

This task has been completed and draft copies have been delivered to Club Officers. The officers will review the draft and come to an agreement. Once an agreement has been reached it will be submitted to club members for a vote at the April regular club meeting. A copy of the proposed bylaws will be posted to the club's website no later than Monday, April 11 for member's perusal. Members without internet access and on the current newsletter mailing list will receive a copy via US mail. Please review the proposal and attend the April meeting to cast your vote.

Treasurer's Report

by Kenny Hickey KD5VQN

I GAVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT AT THE LAST MEETING. I WILL BE UPDATING THE BANK ACCOUNTS AND ROSTER. IF ANYONE HAS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW A.S.A.P VIA EMAIL AT KD5VQN@YAHOO.COM. ALSO, DUES ARE DUE JUNE 2005 FOR THE 2006 YEAR. THE ROSTER WILL BE UPDATED AS DUES ARE PAID.

I HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING!!

YOUR TREASURER,
KENNY HICKEY

Thank You

A warm thank you from the family of Bill Cleaver, Sr. The flowers the club sent to the funeral were beautiful.

I am humbled by the kindness and thoughtful support from the club and it's members. It's so very hard letting Dad go, but there is great comfort in the friends that came forward at a difficult time. Thanks to all of you who called, visited and prayed with us.

Bill Cleaver, Jr.
KD5PMB

R.A.C.E.S.

by Bob Fitch K5ASU

We are now beginning the storm season for this part of Texas. The storm period lasts from March until about the 15 June. The most severe part of the storm season is the month of April. The storms begin to taper off on the 15 May. This does not mean that we will not have severe storms in the later part of May and the first part of June. We can have some very strong storms in those months. The only thing that changes is the time between storms becomes greater on the average. When we do have one in May and June they can be equal in strength to any storms in the months of March and April. For that matter, when we have a thunderstorm anytime of the year they can be severe. When conditions are right and a thunderstorm forms the conditions can become severe. Thunderstorms don't know what time of the year it is. As RACES Spotters we have to take all thunderstorms serious. Each of us should be aware of the weather each day and the immediate forecast for the next three days. This information is available on TV, Internet, and newspapers on a daily basis. It is the time of the year to check our equipment and insure that we are prepared for the storm season. Check the battery supplies on your handheld units to insure they are fresh and will hold up under the load of an extended net during storms. Check your mobile installations and insure that they are working. Run a test with a RACES member on the repeater and on simplex to insure you will be able to communicate. Check your basic emergency kit to insure it has the items you will need and you have extra batteries as required. If you don't have a basic emergency kit it is time to assemble one for your vehicle. If you have an emergency power plant at your home, then check it for proper operation. I am presently working on the completion of the identification cards for the RACES members. I still need photos on 30 members. I can't process your ID card without a photo. Please get your photo made at the club meeting. Robert Crosby – KD5YHY is present at the meetings with his camera and can take your photo for the ID card. I expect each of you get your photo made in the very

near future. All new cards will have a three-year expiration date to comply with the State RACES requirements. Our RACES priorities for Ellis County, City of Waxahachie, and all other cities in the county are as follows.

1. Provide backup communications for Ellis County and all cities in the County when requested to do so for emergencies.
2. Provide Skywarn Storm Spotters for Ellis County and all cities when alerted by the National Weather Service.
3. Provide backup communications for Public Service organizations and public events when requested if not required in priority 1 & 2 above.

73s

Bob Fitch – K5ASU
RACES Radio Officer

Planning Committee Report

by Jon Hykel KM5PZ

Ok first off, please remember that the next Planning Committee meeting will be at El Rancho Restaurant in Waxahachie. It is located in the strip mall between Hastings Music and Books, and Payless Shoes the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm. We have a ton of events and activities coming up, so if you are sitting at home on that day please come down to the Planning Committee meeting and get filled in. Please keep in mind on the last weekend in May will be the Ennis Polka Fest. We will have a Float in the parade, a booth downtown, and Ellis County RACES will be working with the City of Ennis EOC, Fire Department and Police Department assisting with weather spotting the same way Tarrant County RACES does for Mayfest in Fort Worth. With all that in mind it's going to be all hands on deck that weekend. We will need as much help as we can get. Please remember that ECARC will have a table set up at this year's Ham-Com for all club members who need to clean some items out of their shack. Field Day as of this time is set for Mott Park at Lake Bardwell, however we are still waiting on confirmation for the pavilion for that

weekend. There are a couple of bike races that we will be assisting with along with a lot more. So please keep in mind to come to a planning committee meeting in the next month or two.

Good Neighbors

by David Shaheen WB5GUG

In the interest of developing stronger relations with our neighbors, Fr. David Shaheen, WB5GUG, and Marjorie Shaheen, KE5DUX, represented the ECARC and assisted the Mesquite ARC RACES in conducting and organizing the annual rodeo parade. There were 103 entries and the RACES group was charged with forming up the parade according to entry number and getting the parade on time with everyone in their proper places. Of course, with hams directing that part of the show, it started exactly on time. No float or entry was out of place - and no one walked behind horses! We all met at the corner of Carver and Newsom at 8 am Saturday, May 2, and began the task of forming nearly 200 units up and down Carver and Newsom on both sides. Many of the entries had four or more units. As the parade started moving out on Newsom the hams directed the meshing together of four columns of parade units into their proper position. Everything went smoothly. The Mesquite club officers invited us to call on them anytime we need similar assistance.

April R.A.C.E.S. Training Net Topic

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

With the warmer weather comes the start of the Public Service Event season. With that thought in mind, the April training topic will cover 5 areas of Public Service Communications:

1. What is public service communications?
2. Why is public service communications a training ground for RACES emergency communications?
3. Public Service Event Structure
4. Public Service Event Communications Procedures
5. Good operating habits.

Boat Anchors of the Month

For Sale: MFJ-986 Differential-T Tuner \$220; ICOM 706 MK2 \$400. If interested contact Jon Hykel at km5pz@sbcglobal.net

For Sale: VHF: Kenwood TM-211 with tone board \$75, TM-221a \$100, TM-231a \$125
UHF: TM-411 with tone board \$150, still in the box TM-421a \$175, Maxtrac 16 channels 5 pin \$100, Maxtrac 16 channels 16 pin \$100 Contact John Sanders N5NME at sandersj@cowtown.net

For Sale: YAESU FT-101ZD (100 WATTS TUBE) mint cond. HF RADIO AND MFJ TUNER / \$295.00 for pair (HERITAGE: OWNED BY KA5RDB , KG50S , KK5UB) Complete packet station : 286 (w/EGA color) PC with Kantronics TNC with memory upgrade chip and AZDEN PCS 2000 radio (25 watts 2mtr.) patch cords included / \$250.00 for all three
Will consider trade for 2 meter gear in good shape.
Contact Dave KK5UB at David.Costlow@carrier.utc.com

I am looking for a tri-band beam (10,15,20) in real good condition. I have IC-W32A dual band HT in like new condition with drop in charger and wall charger for sale. I also have several Motorola 450 uhf 16 freq. mobile radios for sale or trade. They are complete with power cord, mounting bracket and mic. I have a pair of Cushcraft 13B2 beams for 2 meters. I just replaced all elements at a cost of \$175.00. I am also looking for a good amplifier for the HF bands. Cell phone number is (972) 351-1073.
Billy/WB5BXJ

For Sale: "Pana-Vise" 6 inch double swivel mount, good for mobile radio mounts. Act quickly while supplies last. Asking price \$7.50 each. Contact [Gary Haden KD5ZCP](mailto:Gary.Haden@KD5ZCP) or 469 348-6817

April Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Mar	28	29	30	31	1 Apr	2
				7:00p SKYWARN Training Class by the NWS		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		8:00a QSO Breakfast at Cancun's VE Test
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			7:00p Planning Committee Meeting at El Rancho	7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				7:30p ECARC Club Meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30