



# THE ELLIS COUNTY REPEATER

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

April 2006  
Volume 4; Issue 4

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

## E.C.A.R.C. Officers

President

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KA5TBK

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Secretary

Ray Calhoun  
W5ZGZ

Treasurer

Kenny Hickey  
KD5VQN

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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



Club President Mark Frankie KA5TBK traded in his ham-shack for an ice-shack, and his street bike for an ice bike. Hopefully he will be

closer to home this month.

## March Club Meeting Notes

We met at the northern fire station for the March meeting with a light crowd of about ten members. Secretary Ray Calhoun, W5ZGZ gave us the minutes from the last meeting, which was approved by the attending members. President Mark Frankie, KA5TBK opened the floor for any new business and committee reports. Robert Crosby, KD5YHY reported that at this year's SKYWARN School he has had only one person contact him from the attendees requesting information on getting their first FCC license. Other new business was brought up by KA5TBK. Mark reported on the club's repeater. He related information from the Vice President Richard Bird KD5NFW that the new repeater location was in progress awaiting electricity at the HOLCIM plant in Midlothian. The electrical hookup is expected for completion in about two weeks. This will be as time permits since it is being done as a favor to the club. At this time the meeting was adjourned for fellowship.

Robert Crosby KD5YHY

## R.A.C.E.S.

It is coming into the most active time of the year for the RACES group. We will be faced with more active weather patterns in the months of April-June. It is time to review your equipment and emergency kits for the time when we may be called on to provide emergency communications for the Ellis County entities we serve. Check your radios, antennas, and backup equipment to insure you are ready if called to provide service. Check both base stations and mobile stations and their antennas. Secure some "Plan B" equipment in case your "A Plan" does

not work. Change all your radio equipment power cords to Anderson Power Poles so that all radios can be used in other hams stations and mobiles. This is the old Boy Scout motto. BE PREPARED.

I am presently working on a plan to reduce the travel required of each of our members by assigning Spotter locations by geographical locations. Roughly the plan is to have the RACES members in each town cover the spotter locations close to their home QTH. This will not prevent a member from being asked to go mobile to another location depending on the storm path and or lack of coverage in a critical area. This will be the starting place for all members and proceed as the storm or emergency conditions require managing the situation.

Ennis (6 members) Spotter locations #16, 22, 23, & 26 (Some members may be ask to support on SL#10)

Red Oak (5 members) Spotter Locations #7, 14, 20 & 25

Ferris (1 member)

Palmer (3 members) Spotter Locations #19, 21, & 24

Midlothian (5 members) Spotter Locations #1, 2, 3, & 4

Venus (1 member)

Waxahachie (13 members) Spotter Locations #11, 13, 17 & 18 (Some members may be ask to support on SL# 5, 6)

Italy (1 member) Spotter Locations #9 & 10

Milford (1 member) Spotter Locations #5 & 6

All members please become familiar with the spotter locations and in a normal situation, plan to man the west locations upon activation and move east as the storm progresses. This is our normal movement in Ellis County. Remember there is always a rogue storm that doesn't follow our plan and be prepared for that day.

73s

Bob Fitch -K5ASU  
Radio Officer

## Treasurer's Report

Dues are due June 2006 for the 2007 year. Get them in early and, as always, donations are welcome. If you have a new address or phone

number please let me know so I can update the books.

Your Treasurer,  
Kenny Hickey KD5VQN  
[kd5vqn@yahoo.com](mailto:kd5vqn@yahoo.com)

## Public Service Events – Quality Time for Ham Couple KE5DIO and KD5YHY

Waking up at 3 a.m. on a frosty morning may not sound like fun to most people, but for us it's an opportunity to spend an enjoyable day with our two dogs, each other, and lots of other volunteers at the Grasslands Run outside Decatur, Texas. It's a two-hour trip for us, so my husband Robert has our truck ready to go the night before. The covered truck bed is full of radio equipment, a portable table, batteries, antenna masts, a portable awning and chairs. There's just enough room left for our dog Shadow – our other dog, Jacques, gets to ride with us in the cab. We have packed a lunch and drinks and we're ready to go. The sun is rising as we arrive at the Grasslands. We stop to check in and say hello to some of the other hams at the net control position, then head out to our assigned rest stop. Two other volunteers are already there, getting snacks and drinks ready so the runners can make a quick pit stop before continuing on. Some will run the twenty-five mile course, and others will complete the fifty-mile course. As the race begins at seven a.m., the air is still chilly but the runners don't seem fazed at all by the cold. I, however, am shivering in my winter coat.



It's time for some husband-wife teamwork. We set up our antenna mast and equipment, then get out the awning and chairs. We do a final radio check and then let the dogs out of the truck. The scenery is gorgeous and the silence is refreshing. It is very relaxing to sit with my coffee watching the runners jogging past, stopping quickly for a drink or snack at the rest station. They come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. I man the radio while Robert takes our two dogs for a long walk through the gently-rolling hills. He is gone a long time, and I get comfortable handling the radio traffic and transmitting information to and from the volunteers at the rest stop. When they run out of water, I call in a request to the roving supply truck driver. After an hour or so, Robert and the dogs return from their adventure. We eat our lunch while the dogs doze off, tired from all the exercise and fresh air.

Time seems to fly by, like the dozens of runners, and before we know it, the last runners have passed us and the race is winding down. The rest stop volunteers pack up their leftovers and we radio to have them picked up. After a final check-in to make sure all the runners gone through our stop, we break down our equipment and pack up. We stop to say our goodbyes to the hams at the main station, and then head for home.

Participating in public service events like the Grasslands Run gives us a chance to check out our equipment and determine how long set-up will take. This helps us be ready in the event of a disaster or weather event. It also gives us a chance to meet other hams and volunteers who share our enjoyment of public service. The weather was great and the location beautiful, and we had a great time while helping out with the event. And our two dogs had the time of their lives. All in all, not a bad way to spend a Saturday.

Cathy Schack KE5DIO

## Boat Anchors of the Month

**WANTED:** crank up tower, at least 60', preferably free standing but not mandatory. Will pick up. Please contact Nick WA6GPW/5 at [hkiseloff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hkiseloff@sbcglobal.net).

**For Sale:** Mosely TA-36 six element Tri-band beam [details](#)

**For Sale:** MFJ-986 Differential-T Tuner \$220; ICOM 706 MKII \$400  
Contact Jon Hykel at [km5pz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:km5pz@sbcglobal.net)