

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

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E.C.A.R.C. Officers

President

Mark Frankie

KA5TBK

markfrankie@aol.com

Vice-President

Dwayne Phillips

KD5HWP

kd5hwp@ectisp.net

Secretary

Ray Calhoun

W5ZGZ

Treasurer

Danny Woodruff

KA5RDB

dwoodruff@ectisp.net

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

Please allow me to get some formalities out of



the way. My name is Mark Frankie and my call sign is KA5TBK. I live on a small farm in Red Oak, TX. Although my job includes a fair bit of travel, I can be reached by cell phone at 214-673-7889. As

the new club president, it is my desire to meet and talk to as many members as I can. While I have been a Ham for about 20 years, I have only begun to scratch the surface of the hobby we call Amateur Radio. I currently enjoy HF, VHF, and UHF mainly in the SSB, FM, and CW modes. I look forward to exploring the digital modes soon. But enough about me.....

It is my opinion that ham radio should be fun, exciting, educational, and of service to our community (heavy on the fun part). On the subject of fun, we just finished with Field Day. This one was my best ever. We operated from the Waxahachie Fire Department. This came with several built in advantages such as climate control and antenna supports. With home-land security at a higher level of importance, working with our Fire and Police departments could become very important. Thanks to the cooperation of the WFD ladder truck we were able to secure two points of attachment at about 65 feet on the tower for wire antennas. We left ropes in place for future use. As a result of this, dipole antennas can be deployed in a matter of minutes.

There were many who helped this year with set up and take down. I would like to give each one of you a mention here but at the risk of leaving someone out and in the interest of brevity, I'll pass on that for now. (If you were there you know who you are.) My thanks go to those who brought equipment from your own stations as well.

We had a good attendance with a broad range of expertise. Newer hams were able to operate in bands and modes above their license level, some for the first time. We had good coverage from the local newspapers who sent reporters to write stories and take pictures. It was interesting to hear all the different answers about what ham radio is. We were well covered into the evening

and grave yard shift as well. We are grateful to those who showed up to run the numbers up with cw contacts. Wendell Carrington N5WC, gave us an inspiring performance. It served as a reminder to those who watched that cw is still a very useful and efficient mode of operation. In the wee hours, Dwayne Phillips KD5HWP and Tommy Vinson KA5RDC created their own pileup on HF and ran back-to-back contacts for hours. Others in the late night die hard crowd were Richard Bird KD5NFW and Glenn Cobb KC5JQK. If there are those I missed please excuse me, my memory of the event may be distorted by the lack of sleep and the sugar high I was experiencing as a result of the white powdered sugar donuts courtesy of Bob Fitch K5ASU.

In closing I would like to invite you to get on the air and have fun! There is activity on the repeater most any night from 9:00 to Midnight. Please throw your call in and join us. Every one is welcome.

73,

Mark KA5TBK

July Club Meeting Notes

By KD5NFW, Richard Bird

The July Club Meeting was held July 17th at the Central Fire Station on Water St. in the training room with approximately 15 members present. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by President Mark Frankie, KA5TBK. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun, W5ZGZ read the minutes of the June meeting and the floor was opened for new business. Richard Bird, KD5NFW, presented a \$552.00 donation to the club's repeater fund from the proceeds of a used computer sale. In the spirit of Amateur Radio community service and public exposure of our club, a suggestion was made for the club to sponsor a blood drive in Ellis County. A two member committee of Mark Frankie and Richard Bird was formed to find a suitable location for this event. Danny Woodruff, KA5RDB, reported a Yaseu FT-8100 radio was purchased at HamCom for the EOC. The need to organize a meeting between Ellis County R.A.C.E.S. with

county and city organizations in an effort to improve communication was discussed. Two new members were accepted into the club, Robert Crosby, KD5YHY, and Jonathon Hykel, KM5PZ. After the meeting close, Bill Martz, WB5RFM, made a "homebrew" presentation to the club. He displayed several brochures and manuals of projects he has completed, along with a demonstration of a keyer project he had recently completed. The sense of accomplishment and satisfaction Bill receives from these homebrew projects was clearly visible in his presentation. Dwayne Phillips has volunteered to make a presentation to the club at the next meeting. The August club meeting will be held on the 21st at 7:30 pm at the same location. Look forward to seeing you there!

Dwayne's Corner

What is PSK31?



Translated literally, it's an acronym for "Phase Shift Keying, 31 Baud". PSK31 is a form of modulation (or "mode") that offers a new and higher level of performance in conversational communications (keyboard-to-keyboard) that we "hams" (amateur radio operators) can enjoy. And it's been made instantly usable to all of us, due in part to the proliferation of

the personal computer, and in part to the superb and generous efforts of some very talented ham/programmers. In the short time that PSK31 has been in use, its popularity has grown by leaps and bounds.

It should come as no surprise that the PC is transforming the way we operate. Think about it, in your little PC you've got one of the most powerful tools for digital signal processing, spectrum analysis, database, logging, and much more.

Two of the most significant features that make this the ideal mode for digital communications is the extremely narrow band width and the fact that it is highly immune to noise and QRM.

The baud rate used by PSK31 is 31.25 baud. This is fast enough to handle most operator's manual typing capabilities, a speed of about 50 words per minute. It is intended as a means of keyboard to keyboard communication between two or more operators.

Have you ever sat down at your station and was ready to work the world only to find most of the bands were dead? Well just turn on PSK31 and you'll see the band open up like you've never seen before. You can work just about anywhere on 5 - 25 watts!

If you want to try it to see what it is like, you can buy a cheap audio cable from Radio Shack (\$3.99). Plug one end into the output of your rig and the other end into your input on the PC, download WinPSK and you can receive PSK31.

Here are some frequencies where you will find PSK31:

21.08015 / 14.07015 / 7.08015

This is a very good site to find all info needed on PSK31 and other digital modes.--- www.packetradio.com

Download WinPSK-- www.WinPSKse.com

Tnx

Dwayne KD5HWP

Morse Mayhem

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse code to operate below 30 MHz. While Morse exam elements remain on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have apparently become the first countries to delete their Morse requirements for HF operation. In the US, however, the FCC is unlikely to act on its own motion to simply make the Morse testing requirement go away. "There isn't an exception in the Administrative Procedures Act that I am aware of that would permit the Commission to issue an administrative fiat changing the license structure or exam-requirement rules," said an FCC staffer who's closely involved with Amateur Service rules. Other countries can do this because they have different laws and procedures, the FCC staff member observed, adding that even if it could be done here, "that still leaves unanswered the fundamental question: What do you want the new rules to be?"

In its December 1999 Report and Order restructuring Amateur Radio licensing, the FCC stopped short of revising the rules to sunset the Morse requirement automatically if WRC-03 deleted Morse proficiency from the International Radio Regulations. The FCC also acknowledged "a clear dichotomy of viewpoints" on the Morse code issue within the amateur community.

The ARRL's policy for several years has been that Morse should be retained as a testing element in the US. At its July 18-19 meeting in Connecticut, however, the Board said it would solicit and review input from members on the Morse testing requirement and other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03.

The first move on the Morse code question in the US is for someone to file a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC seeking a rule change. No Code International (NCI) <<http://www.nocode.org/>> has spearheaded the battle to eliminate the Morse requirement and would be a likely organization to file such a petition. NCI Executive Director Carl Stevenson, WK3C, said late last week that NCI was still studying the matter and had not yet made a final decision on a plan of action. An ARRL member, Stevenson says he hopes personally that the League would join NCI in actively encouraging the FCC to eliminate the Morse exam element as soon as possible.

Hopes for a quick resolution to the Morse question could be wishful thinking, however. Once a petition to drop the Morse exam element is filed, the FCC will put it on "public notice" by assigning an RM number and soliciting comments. If more than one such petition is filed, the FCC is obliged to invite comments on each. When that process is completed, the FCC may determine that a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) is in order. The Commission at that point could incorporate all Morse-related rule making petitions into a single proceeding. The NPRM would get a docket number, and the comment process would begin anew.

Further complicating and extending the process, the FCC most likely would incorporate other pending Amateur Radio-related issues into the same NPRM. At the end of the comment and reply comment periods, the FCC would issue

a Report and Order (R&O) that includes its decision on the Morse code requirement and any other issues incorporated into the proceeding. The whole process could take a couple of years, perhaps longer.

Ratification of the WRC-03 Final Acts by the US Senate does not appear to be necessary before the FCC can act or begin the rule making process. Following World Administrative Conference 1979 (WARC-79) which resulted in three new HF amateur bands, the FCC acted in 1982, prior to Senate ratification of the conference's Final Acts, not only to initiate the rule making process but to give amateurs limited access to 30 meters.

Radio Amateurs of Canada has advised hams in that country that the Morse qualification requirement remains in effect for operation below 30 MHz, "pending a review by Industry Canada of the impact of the WRC-2003 regulatory changes on the Canadian radio regulations, policies and procedures."

Heat Wave: A Major Summer Killer

Reprinted from NWS Ft. Worth

Heat kills by taxing the human body beyond its abilities. In a normal year, about 175 Americans succumb to the demands of summer heat. Among the large continental family of natural hazards, only the cold of winter-not lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or earthquakes-takes a greater toll. In the 40-year period from 1936 through 1975, nearly 20,000 people were killed in the United States by the effects of heat and solar radiation. In the disastrous heat wave of 1980, more than 1,250 people died.

Heat Index/Heat Disorders: Possible heat disorders for people in higher risk groups.

Heat Index of 130° OR Higher:

HEATSTROKE/SUNSTROKE HIGHLY LIKELY WITH CONTINUED EXPOSURE,

Heat Index of 105°- 130°: SUNSTROKE, HEAT CRAMPS OR HEAT EXHAUSTION LIKELY, AND HEATSTROKE POSSIBLE WITH PROLONGED EXPOSURE AND/OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

Heat Index of 90°- 105°: SUNSTROKE, HEAT CRAMPS AND HEAT EXHAUSTION POSSIBLE WITH PROLONGED EXPOSURE AND/OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

Heat Index of 80° - 90°: FATIGUE POSSIBLE WITH PROLONGED EXPOSURE AND/OR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Heat Wave Safety Tips

Slow down. Strenuous activities should be reduced, eliminated, or rescheduled to the coolest time of the day. Individuals at risk should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.

Dress for summer. Lightweight light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight, and helps your body maintain normal temperatures.

Put less fuel on your inner fires. Foods (like proteins) that increase metabolic heat production also increase water loss. Drink plenty of **water or other non-alcohol fluids**. Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty. Persons who (1) have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease, (2) are on fluid restrictive diets or (3) have a problem with fluid retention should consult a physician before increasing their consumption of fluids.

Do not drink alcoholic beverages.

Do not take salt tablets unless specified by a physician.

Spend more time in air-conditioned places. Air conditioning in homes and other buildings markedly reduces danger from the heat. If you cannot afford an air conditioner, spending some time each day (during hot weather) in an air conditioned environment affords some protection.

Don't get too much sun. Sunburn makes the job of heat dissipation that much more difficult

Know These Heat Disorder Symptoms

SUNBURN: Redness and pain. In severe cases swelling of skin, blisters, fever, headaches. First Aid: Ointments for mild cases if blisters appear and do not break. If breaking occurs, apply dry sterile dressing. Serious, extensive cases should be seen by physician.

HEAT CRAMPS: Painful spasms usually in muscles of legs and abdomen possible. Heavy sweating. First Aid: Firm pressure on cramping muscles, or gentle massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue use.

HEAT EXHAUSTION: Heavy sweating, weakness, skin cold, pale and clammy. Pulse thready. Normal temperature possible. Fainting and vomiting. First Aid: Get victim out of sun. Lay down and loosen clothing. Apply cool, wet cloths. Fan or move victim to air conditioned room. Sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue use. If vomiting continues, seek immediate medical attention.

HEAT STROKE (or sunstroke): High body temperature (106° F. or higher). Hot dry skin. Rapid and strong pulse. Possible unconsciousness. First Aid: HEAT STROKE IS A SEVERE MEDICAL EMERGENCY. SUMMON EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OR GET THE VICTIM TO A HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY. DELAY CAN BE FATAL. Move the victim to a cooler environment Reduce body temperature with cold bath or sponging. Use extreme caution. Remove clothing, use fans and air conditioners. If temperature rises again, repeat process. Do not give fluids. Persons on salt restrictive diets should consult a physician before increasing their salt intake.

R.A.C.E.S. – Skywarn

By K5ASU, Bob Fitch

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES): RACES is authorized by Federal Communication Commission Rules and Regulations Part 97.407.

This section is far too long to reproduce and publish in the Club Newsletter. It is suggested that each member of the RACES organization read this section of the Rules and Regulations.

The main points in this section are as follows:

- All stations must be a FCC licensed amateur radio operator who has been certified by a civil defense organization and registered with that organization.
- Control operators of all RACES stations must hold a FCC Amateur License and must be certified by a civil defense organization and registered with that organization.
- The frequency bands and segments and emissions authorized to the control operator are available to stations transmitting communications in RACES on a shared basis with the amateur service.

The Ellis County Government and the City of Waxahachie Emergency Management certify the RACES organization in Ellis County. All members are registered with these civil defense organizations. This is the authority under which our organization operates each time we provide service. When we are providing service to these organizations is incumbent upon us to provide professional and accurate reporting of all facts concerning the emergency to the organization. They depend on us for accurate information and make some of their plans and decisions upon our reports. BE PROFESSIONAL even if we are classified as AMATEURS.

Boat Anchors of the Month

Antenna Tuner : I have a heavy duty full legal limit Heathkit antenna tuner I bought and put together new. It is not being used since I bought the Ameritron unit. Asking \$100.00. Excellent condition with original manual.

Contact Wendell at (972) 937-4100 or email n5wc@direcway.com

Cushcraft Antenna : I will have a Cushcraft ATB34 4 element tri-band yagi antenna for sale as soon as my force 12 arrives. I have worked and confirmed approx. 320 countries with it and it is still in excellent condition and used every day. Asking \$100.00. Handles 1500 watts no sweat.

Contact Wendell at (972) 937-4100 or email n5wc@direcway.com

Wanted : Newly licensed Ham. Need 2-meter mobile rig. Dual bander preferred.

Contact Cal Beard at (469) 575-2212 or email calbeard@comcast.net

Bumper : Brand new rear bumper from 2003 Ford F-250. \$195.00

kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net

August Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Jul	28	29	30	31	1 Aug	2
3	4	5	6	7 7:00p RACES Training Net on 145.410	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 7:00p ECARC Information Net on 145.410	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 7:00p ECARC Club Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 Sep	2	3	4 7:00p RACES Training Net on 145.410	5	6

