

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



THE ELLIS COUNTY REPEATER

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

August 2005
Volume 3; Issue 8

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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



Hello again. It seems like the months are flying by faster every time. We've been very busy again. If you missed the meeting this month this may be the first you hear of our new repeater equipment. I

think it's been long over due, but it's finally on the way. The order has been placed. In line with that we are looking for another location as well. We have some solid possibilities at this time and may be able to better our coverage of the county as well as enhance our coverage to the west. This is important from the storm spotting angle. Most but not all weather seems to come in from the southwest, west, or northwest. With some of our most active spotters based on the west side of the county, this should give them the ability to give us even better coverage and more lead time. An extra 10 to 20 miles of coverage to the west could come in very handy.

As usual we have a lot coming up in the near future so please look at the possible places you can add your skill and experience to the club and the related activities. These activities include something for everyone. We have public service events like bicycle races to provide communication for. This is one of the best ways to get the club and ham radio in the public eye. We also have RACES related exercises on the agenda. This should help to foster better relations to city and county governments as well as local fire and law enforcement agencies. If that is not your cup of tea you may wish to participate in one on the upcoming contests. This is a very good way to sharpen your operating skills.

As usual thanks are in order to those of you who quietly go about the business of the club without additional fanfare. You know who you are. Our thanks go to you and all like you. This is what makes our club work and grow. There is still plenty of room for anyone to jump in and participate. Don't be a spectator, find a place and jump in.

See you on the air,
Mark Frankie KA5TBK

July Club Meeting Notes

The ECARC July Club meeting was held Thursday, July 21 with 16 voting members present. The meeting was called to order by President Mark Frankie KA5TBK at 7:34pm. Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes from the June meeting and the members voted to accept them as read. Jon Hykel KM5PZ gave reports for the Planning Committee and the Education Committee. Bob Fitch K5ASU gave a R.A.C.E.S. report on the upcoming emergency exercise at the end of August. The big event of the evening revolved around the proposal for new repeater equipment. After some discussion, the club members present voted unanimously to accept the proposed equipment purchase as presented by the Repeater Upgrade Committee. The equipment approved consists of a Kenwood TKR-750 K2 repeater factory tuned to our frequency, an Astron RM-50A-BB rack mounted power supply with backup battery option, and a factory tuned P.A. deck with 15W in and 120W out. This equipment has been ordered and should be delivered in the very near future. Once it all arrives, it should take approximately one week to get it ready to go. I'm sure everyone in the club is excited about this new equipment and our future.

The next ECARC Club meeting will be Thursday, August 18 at the normal location and time. I look forward to seeing you there!

73,

Richard Bird KD5NFW

Planning Committee

Ok well as we said a couple of weeks ago, after all the activity the club has had going, and with a lot of focus on the upcoming new repeater the club is getting, we are slacking off for a bit on club activities. I do have a couple of activities I would like to discuss. The 3rd annual ECARC Blood Drive is taking place August 27th at the Walmart parking lot in Waxahachie. We are now looking for volunteers to come out and man the club information table and HF Radio, and or give blood. This is a short event that gets the club some exposure. If you are interested in pitching in a hand or would like to donate some blood, please contact Richard KD5NFW or myself. The

Texas QSO Party will be taking place once again this year in September. This years QSO party will be worked from Richard Bird KD5NFW's Fathers house in Midlothian. BBQ, swimming, HF radios, and a yagi will be the order of the day. More information on the QSO party when that date gets closer. The Planning Committee will be meeting at Rocket Café the second Wednesday of the month at 7PM. If you need directions please contact myself km5pz@sbcglobal.net or talk-in will be on 145.410.

Jon Hykel KM5PZ

FCC PROPOSES DROPPING MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the provision in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Dropping the Morse code requirement or any other changes to Part 97 would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. "Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM&O consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community. Several petitioners simply asked the FCC to drop the Morse requirement, but some--including the ARRL--also proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on what the FCC calls "our tentative conclusions" in

its NPRM&O. The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum. To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the code altogether, although the League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner also expressed dismay that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class. "We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road." Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM&O and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals. In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM&O, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest. The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able to upgrade

to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said it already addressed some other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140. The NPRM&O is on the FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/atchmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM&O in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days.

Richard's Rants

(aka Bird Droppings)

The results are in for the 2005 ARRL International DX (phone) Contest and WD5DDH made a respectable showing. We ranked 794 out of a total 2,057 entries! We are in the top 40% for the contest. We worked the contest as a multi-operator single transmitter station and ranked 81 out of a total 108. In call area 5 we ranked 33 out of 89. In the North Texas division we ranked 10 out of 20. In the multi-operator single transmitter category for North Texas we are ranked #1! (Don't tell anyone we were the only entry for that category). This was a 48 hour contest during which time we made 217 QSO's, accumulated 108 multipliers, and scored a total of 70,308 points. Out of the 48 hours, we probably only worked about 15 hours with the 8 operators that participated. These achievements will serve as good goals to surpass at next year's contest. I look forward to doubling these numbers then.

As a reminder, our next club contest is the Texas QSO Party September 24-25. This event begins at 9:00am Saturday morning and runs until 9:00pm that evening. At that time operations shut down and everyone gets a chance to relax until the next morning. The contest fires up again Sunday morning at 9:00am and runs until 3:00pm. The event will be held at my Pop's house at 770 Bryson Lane between Midlothian and Ovilla. There is a large covered patio, swimming pool, and hopefully 3-4 sections of Rohn-25 tower with a beam antenna. We will be barbecuing something yet to be determined. Bottom line is everyone will have a great time, sharpen their operating skills, and make lots of contacts with your fellow Texans. I

look forward to seeing lots of club members and their families at the Party!

Richard KD5NFW

A Note from the Treasurer

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE PAY THEM AS SOON AS YOU CAN. THEY WERE DUE AT THE JUNE MEETING. AFTER THE AUGUST MEETING IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE ROSTER. IF FOR SOME REASON YOU CAN NOT PAY THEM DUE TO PERSONAL REASONS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.

YOUR TREASURER KENNY HICKEY

Boat Anchors

For Sale: I have two scanners for sale. Both cover VHF-Low, VHF-Hi and UHF. Ellis County area public service channels are already programmed. One is a desk top and the other is portable. \$50.00 each. Contact Bill Cleaver (KD5PMB) at 817-654-9228 or blctexas@aol.com...

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 or 469 348-6817

R.A.C.E.S. Training Topic for August Net

Topics from the NWS Advanced Spotter Training manual will include atmospheric conditions for thunderstorm development, the thunderstorm life cycle, and convective variables. Training Net begins at 7:30pm Thursday, August 4, on the 145.410 machine.

August Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Jul	1 Aug	2	3	4	5	6
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			7:00p Planning Committee Meeting at Rocket Cafe	7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		8:00a QSO Breakfast at Cancun's VE Test
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				7:30p ECARC Club Meeting		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						3rd Annual ECARC Blood Drive
28	29	30	31	Sep	2	3
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		