



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

December 2003
Volume 1; Issue 12

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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



Article not available at press time. (I suspect a little too much turkey and L-tryptophan) We look forward to next month's pen!

December Club Meeting at Peel's Steakhouse

The holidays are upon us and time is short, so the Ellis County ARC monthly meeting will be moved up from its normal 3rd Thursday of the month to this Saturday, December 6th, at Peel's in Waxahachie beginning at 6:00pm. In addition to good food and good fellowship, this year we will have a "Chinese Gift Exchange". Anyone who wants to participate in this fun event should bring a gift of no more than \$5. The more people who play, the more fun it is, so everyone be sure to bring something. This is a family event so be sure to bring your spouse. See you there Saturday night!

Dwayne's Corner



Hello everyone, I just have a couple of reminders to write about today. The first is the Christmas Parade. The parade will be Saturday Dec.06, at 10:00am. For those that do not know, we will be entering a float in the parade this year on behalf of the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club. We will need to meet somewhere for breakfast and coffee at about 8:00am and then get the trailer to College Street by 9:00am that morning. Let's all show up for this and fill that trailer up with folks

to show that we do have some members in the club. Just listen in on the repeater to find out where we will meet and any other info you might need. So far we have two banners to put on the trailer. If anyone has any other ideas, please let me know and we will try to get it done. It is very important that we show ourselves to the community so that we will get the club going in the right direction for the future.

The second is Kids on the Air. This will be at the E.O.C. on Jan.03, 2004. My wife, Marla (KD5UIV) has asked the E.C.A.R.C. if they would set up on this day and let the Girl Scouts come in and talk on the radio to other kids. The club has agreed to open the E.O.C. and any volunteers to come out and help with the setup of antennas, or taking over as control operator would be very helpful as there may be as many as 50-60 girl scouts show up. Time will be from 1:00pm-5:00pm. Sat. Jan.03, 2004.

Tnx

Dwayne / KD5HWP

November Club Meeting Notes

By Richard Bird KD5NFW

Ellis County ARC meetings are getting better every month, and the November meeting was no exception. There were 14 members in attendance when KA5TBK called the meeting to order. W5ZGZ read the minutes from the October meeting and they were accepted by the club. KA5RDB gave the members a Treasury Report which revealed a healthy "repeater fund". It was decided that monies would be appropriated to get our repeaters repaired and back in top notch shape. KD5YHY gave a presentation on the knowledge he gained from attending the Grant Seminar. It was made very apparent that if we want to apply for grant money, our first step is attaining 501-C3 status for the club with the IRS. Several members are gathering the necessary paperwork to get this ball rolling. Another item required for 501-C3 status is rewording of our club Bylaws. This action will likely require a committee to go over

the old Bylaws and determine what changes are needed. The December club meeting was changed to December 6th at Peels as described elsewhere in this newsletter. The club volunteered the E.O.C. and some of our members to assist the Girl Scouts with Kids on the Air. For more information refer to KD5HWP's article. Storm season will soon be here, and that means our annual SKYWARN school. At this time we are in search of a site for this event. If you know of a suitable location that can accommodate between 100-200 people, please contact KA5RDB. We have had an influx of new members recently and many different topics are being covered as the club moves forward. Join in on the activities and advancement of your club at the next meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

R.A.C.E.S.

By Bob Fitch K5ASU

The State recognizes the potential of natural and man-made occurrences affecting the lives and property of the citizens of Texas. The occurrences can be in the form of weather, accidents, or aggression by other nations' forces. In any case the State and local governments' capability to respond to alleviate suffering and hardship is based in large part on the availability of adequate communications. Emergency or disaster situations, whether natural or man-made, have the potential and the tendency to overload, or in some cases destroy, normal established communications systems. As a backup to these systems, supplemental emergency communications is a necessity. To provide this supplemental emergency communication system, the FCC has created the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) system in part 97 of the FCC rules and Regulations. RACES organizations are created at the State level and the local level by the Emergency Management Organization for the respected level of government. Our local RACES unit is organized and certified by the Ellis County government and the City of Waxahachie government. We provide emergency communications for these governmental bodies. In addition we will provide the emergency communications services to any city in

Ellis County that makes a request to our organization for support. As a constant and necessary service, we provide Skywarn weather spotters for the National Weather Service and local governments. While providing this service we are honing our communication skills for the time when the emergency communications will be called for by the local governments. BE PROFESSIONAL even if we are classified as AMATEURS.

SKYWARN Recognition Day

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

For the fifth year in a row, the National Weather Service will again host an amateur radio special event. This year, it's on Saturday, December 6th UTC, and is known as SKYWARN Recognition Day.

SKYWARN Recognition Day for Amateur Radio Operators is cosponsored by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the contributions that amateur radio operators ("Hams") make to the National Weather Service during times of critical weather. During the event, Hams across the country try to contact as many NWS offices as possible using their radio equipment. The contacts are received and logged at the individual NWS offices by volunteer amateur radio operators. SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held Saturday, December 6th, 2003, zero hours to 2400 hours ZULU, which is 6 p.m. Dallas time Friday evening to 6 p.m. Saturday. BSA Venturing Crew 73 of Richardson will again coordinate operations at the National Weather Service office in Fort Worth. The special event call sign used will be WX5FWD. A significant number of volunteers are needed this year to staff an HF station, a VHF/UHF station, a PSK-31 station, EchoLink/IRLP and APRS operation. If you would like to volunteer, send an email to Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, at kr1zan@arrl.net. Please specify your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices of times and operating modes. The night-time hours are usually the most difficult to fill, but can be a less intense time for those wanting to get experience with special event stations.

We hope you'll be able to take part. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least 2 hours of operation, plus approximately one additional hour observing/training prior to operating to get acquainted with the equipment and logging. For more information, including the available operator times, see Crew 73's web site, <http://www.qsl.net/k5bsa>. Full details about this NWS Special Event are contained at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

Another One Bites the Dust

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Australia is the latest country to announce it's dropping Morse code testing as a licensing requirement. The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) <http://www.aca.gov.au/> says it will eliminate the Morse testing requirement starting January 1.

"This decision was made considering public comments at the meetings and initial analysis of submissions to the discussion paper," the ACA said, adding that it would make interim changes to its rules to allow immediate access to privileges previously available only to those satisfying the Morse proficiency requirements. The change will give holders of Intermediate and Limited Amateur licenses access to the same frequency bands as Unrestricted Amateur licensees, and holders of the Novice Limited Amateur license access to the same frequency bands as Novice licensees.

The Wireless Association of Australia <<http://www.wia.org.au>> says dropping the Morse requirement will mean no changes in existing licenses or call signs. WIA President Ernie Hocking, VK1LK, urged hams in Australia who don't yet enjoy HF privileges not to get on the air ahead of schedule. There's more information on the ACA Web site <http://www.aca.gov.au/> (Click on "Review of Amateur Service Regulation.")

Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Singapore and Papua-New Guinea have already dropped their Amateur Radio Morse testing requirements or have announced an intention to do so.

Radio Amateurs of Canada asked Industry Canada to drop the Morse requirement at the 21st Industry Canada-Radio Amateurs of Canada Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting October 23 in Ottawa. US amateurs have commented on 14 petitions calling for outright deletion of the Morse requirement or changes in existing requirements. The FCC is not expected to act on the matter until 2004 at the earliest.

several US CW net managers, NREN hopes to provide an alternative public service network geared to low-power, portable and mobile stations. "Because CW provides significantly more reliability for stations operating at low power levels (QRP) or with compromise antennas, this will be a CW-based program," said an announcement from Chuck Mabbott, AA8VS. NREN will work on the "radio watch" principle, and member stations will maintain a watch on one or more of three selected frequencies in the 40, 30, and 20-meter bands. A detailed description of NREN, along standard operating procedures is available on the NREN Web page <http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/>

Meanwhile Back at the Ranch

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

National Radio Emergency Network to debut: The National Radio Emergency Network (NREN) <http://www.aa8vs.org/nren/> will commence operations December 1. A cooperative effort of

December Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Nov	1 Dec	2	3	4	5	6
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		Christmas Parade December Club Meeting at Peel's
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 Jan	2	3
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		

This Month's Boat Anchors

For Sale: Several Gamber Johnson computer mounts with vehicle base. Make offer. Contact [Danny Woodruff KA5RDB](mailto:Danny.Woodruff@KA5RDB)

For Sale: 2 Meter Beams Cushcraft 26B2 Vertical stacked beams. This is two 13 element beams stacked. They were bought brand new in September of 2002, and are assembled and ready to go. This set up sells for \$399.95 new. I am asking \$350.00 Contact : Dwayne (KD5HWP) e-mail kd5hwp@ectisp.net or Scott (KD5RON) at (cell phone) 903-879-3910