

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

January 2004
Volume 2; Issue 1

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



Merry Christmas to all! Here we are again, too much to do and not enough time to be everywhere and do everything. I hope everyone is fully equipped with the various catalogues and wish books. The good thing about ham radio is that there always seems to be something else we need to add to the shack. I have yet to meet the ham operator who has it all. I've met a few that looked like they had it all, but upon further investigation they were always able to point out what they were going to pursue next, given the time or money. That's the beauty of ham radio for me. With all the different modes of operation, equipment, antennas and group activities, the combinations are almost impossible to calculate. When you throw in all the different personalities of the world wide community of hams it goes off the charts.

To view this from a narrower perspective, we here in the ECARC have had a good start to the holiday season. We've had a Christmas party and participated in the Waxahachie parade. If you were unable to attend either of these events we missed you. Part of what makes our club work is the diversity of experience, knowledge and age. This can best be shared by operating. During the time off let's remember to turn on the radio and talk to someone new. Some times all it takes is to throw out your call sign. I've had some great QSOs on the club repeaters. Activity on our repeaters can be contagious. A conversation between two people can draw others in that may never key the mike. I rarely get on the radio that I don't learn something new. I hope you get all the new rigs, batteries, antennas, books, etc.,etc.,.... that your heart desires. Maybe you can give yourself the gift of a license upgrade. Remember we still have VE testing. On a more serious note, my real wish for all of us is that during the holidays we have time for family, good friends, good food, peace and contentment.

See you on the air!
73,
Mark Frankie KA5TBK

Dwayne's Corner



Dwayne was unable to submit an article for this edition, however the following ARRL article deals with Kids Day on the Air. The date is somewhat up in the air, so contact Dwayne for more details. Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

KID'S DAY IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 4!

(This event has been cancelled)

For the first time, Kid's Day will occur on a Sunday. The first 2004 running of this popular operating event will be Sunday, January 4 (the second Kid's Day in 2004 will be Saturday, June 19). Intended to encourage young people--licensed or not--to enjoy Amateur Radio, Kid's Day offers a "mentoring opportunity" for experienced amateurs while giving youngsters some firsthand hamming experience and perhaps sparking a lifelong interest. "Kid's Day is an opportunity to introduce your own youngsters, neighborhood kids and nieces and nephews to participate in the magic of ham radio," suggests Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS, of ARRL Field and Educational Services. Originated by the Boring Amateur Radio Club <http://jzap.com/k7rat/>, Kid's Day now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with BARC's cooperation and assistance. Now entering its tenth year, each running of Kid's Day typically attracts more than 1000 participants. Kid's Day is not a contest, and patience is the byword on both sides of each contact. The role of the licensee and control operator is to help youngsters with the basics, keep an eye on the technical aspects of the operation, observe third-party traffic restrictions <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rparty.html> when making DX QSOs and ensure station identification at proper intervals. In this

event, it's quality of the contacts that counts, not quantity. Kid's Day will run from 1800 to 2400 UTC, and there's no limit on operating time. The suggested exchange is name, age, location and favorite color. Stations may work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz plus 2 meter repeater frequencies, with permission from the repeater's sponsor). Guidelines for this event are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit the ARRL Kid's Day Survey page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html> to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then have access to download the certificate page. Or you can send a 9x12 SASE to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Kid's Day participants are invited to post logs and comments on the Internet <http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/kids/>.

R.A.C.E.S.

by Danny Woodruff KA5RDB



RACES NOTES - December 2003

Each month we have a training net where various aspects of Spotter Reporting are

covered. Additionally we talk about some specific items of interest to RACES Members.

One item that remains the standard is: Spotter Reporting - Minimum Reporting Criteria.

1. Report Briefly what you have seen; wall cloud, tornado on the ground, heavy rain fall.
2. Where you saw it; the direction and distance from a known location, i.e.: 3 miles south of Maypearl, moving to the Northeast.
3. When you saw it; make sure you note the time of your observation.
4. What it was doing; describe the storm's direction, speed of travel; size and intensity, and destructiveness.

Include any amount of uncertainty as needed, i.e.: funnel cloud aloft; no debris visible at the surface but too far away to be certain it is not on the ground.

5. ENSURE you have a safe evacuation route in the event you have to move due to the storm / cell starts moving your way.

MINIMUM REPORTING CRITERIA

Tornado on the ground, funnel aloft or wall cloud.

Hail, 1/4 inch or larger

Damaging Winds (50 miles per hour or greater)

Flash Flooding

Rain Fall: in excess of 1 inch per hour.

As we close out this year, I would like to Thank Each and Everyone of you for your participation in this RACES Organization. Your active participation is what makes this thing work. Thanks Again and Seasons Greetings.

DE Dan, KA5RDB

NEW GENERAL CLASS QUESTION POOL RELEASED

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all subelements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices subelements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.

The new Element 3 question pool is available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page <http://www.arrl.org/arrivec/pools.html> in Adobe PDF and ASCII text format. It includes all questions and answers relating to Element 3.

The Question Pool Committee now is turning its attention to developing an outline for an updated Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool, which will be revised over the next 24 months, Jahnke said. It will go into effect July 1, 2006. The deadline to submit input to the Amateur Extra question pool syllabus is May 1, 2004.

2003 Out With a Bang

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. The club finished off 2003 with a very busy Saturday, December 6th. We had an early start to the day by meeting at Cancun's restaurant in Waxahachie for breakfast. After breakfast, we made the trip to downtown Waxahachie in impressive fashion with approximately 8-10 club member's vehicles back to back, all decked out with antennas. If the public wasn't sure who we were, they definitely knew by the time we got the float fully assembled. And if they still didn't know, Bill, WB5RFM, left no doubt in their minds as he told everyone who we are and what we do as the float passed by. If you missed the parade, you missed a really fun time. We learned a lot from participating in this event, and we already have new ideas for next year. I would like to personally thank Dwayne, KD5HWP, and Robert, KD5YHY, for donating their time and efforts to help me put this float together. I would also like to thank Kenny, KD5VQN, and his family, Bill, WB5RFM, Charles, WX5B, Jesus, KD5KKA, and Robert's wife Cathy and their dog. I think the dog on the front of the float got more attention than the tower and antenna. Go figure!



After the parade was over, everyone headed to the house to get a little rest before the club Christmas Party that evening at Peel's Steaks in Waxahachie. Folks began arriving around 6:15 and continued to trickle in till around 7:00.

Counting spouses and children we had around 25 people attend. After dinner we had a Chinese gift exchange. Lottery tickets and DVD's were being passed around like hot-cakes. I think everyone had a really good time with the gift exchange, but more importantly with the fellowship of club members and their families.

I hope everyone had a very successful 2003 and I wish even better times for all in the year 2004. The club came a long way last year with new members and club events, and I hope it is just the tip of the ice-berg. Help to make your club an active participant and asset to your community. See you Thursday, January 15th at the year's first club meeting.

73

Richard Bird KD5NFW

FCC ANNOUNCES UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM MAKEOVER

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

At week's end, the FCC was preparing to put a new face on the Universal Licensing System (ULS)

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, which includes the Amateur Service. The Commission was set to unveil the new on-line ULS filing interface December 14.

To implement the changes, the ULS on-line filing system will be down from 12 AM EST Saturday, December 13, until 10 AM EST Sunday, December 14.

Among other features, the ULS makeover will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most, if not all, major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. Screens also will be compliant with Web screen-to-voice reader software. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager

notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. The FCC said it would no longer accept a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)--a Social Security Number for most individuals--for log-in purposes. Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

To assist with any ULS issues after the changeover, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available Sunday, December 14, from 10 AM until 6 PM EST. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site <http://esupport.fcc.gov> or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255).

ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail ulshelp@fcc.gov or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322), Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888).

INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE GETS NEW ITU HOME, NEW CHARACTER

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) may have eliminated the treaty requirement for prospective amateurs to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF

access, but the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hasn't forgotten Morse code altogether. In Geneva on December 5, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures. It also includes a new Morse code character to cover the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses.

Once it's made available in English, French and Spanish, the draft new recommendation will go out to ITU member-states using a new procedure for simultaneous adoption and approval. On December 3, the draft new recommendation won the approval of Working Party 8A, which is responsible for the Land Mobile and Amateur services.

Within the ITU, the international Morse code has been defined by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), which is responsible for the public telephone and telegraph network--mostly landline. A couple of years ago, the ARRL pointed out to the US delegation to the ITU Radiocommunication Advisory Group that Morse code's role more properly resides in the radiocommunication realm, not wire, and should be the responsibility of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R).

The transfer was agreed to, and International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Larry Price, W4RA, proposed the draft new recommendation at the November-December Working Group 8A meeting. The draft new recommendation is almost unchanged from its ITU-T text.

"No one wanted to disturb something with more than 150 years of history," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

To keep up with the times, however, the IARU proposed adding a new character--the commercial "at" or @ symbol--to permit sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. The draft new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together (.-.-.) to represent the @ symbol.

While the draft new recommendation is still a working document, its expected to become a Recommendation within six months or so, pending approval by member-states.

January Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Dec	29	30	31	1 Jan	2	3
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1:00p -5:00p Kids on the Air @ E.O.C. in Waxahachie				7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				7:30p ECARC Club Meeting		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

This Month's Boat Anchors

For Sale: Several Gamber Johnson computer mounts with vehicle base. Make offer. Contact [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 \$275.00

Astron 30amp power supply - \$90.00

Ringo Ranger (New in box) - \$65.00

Kenwood T7H DualBand Handheld w/external Mic - \$175.00

Kenwood 570(D) HF Rig w/matching speaker - \$650.00

Contact: Scott (KD5RON) at 903-879-3910