

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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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



I hope we all had a good Christmas and got all the goodies we wanted. Now we are set for a New Year's celebration. New Year's Eve is straight key night. This is a time when those of us who have

been around long enough to remember what a straight key is, are encouraged to make contacts using this method. A straight key is a Morse code keyer that is not electronic. It has one button or knob on it. Pressing down on it will open and close the contacts to create the Morse code. Because the code is done in this way it is not quite as uniform as with an electronic keyer. It's sort of like the difference in hand writing versus typed words. It might be interesting for those of you who are looking at pursuing the code for a license upgrade to listen in.

In line with the new year, we are going to have Morse code classes during the first of the year. We have a lot of work to do as soon as the holidays are over. We have classes to prepare for and public service events to plan for. We still have work to do on the club by-laws. In addition to all of this we have more work to do on our club equipment. There is a lot to be done, but there is a lot of fun to be had. In and around all this work is a lot of fellowship and camaraderie to be had. This is where we get to know each other and learn each others strengths and weaknesses. This ability to work together is necessary when we are asked to serve the community in an emergency or disaster.

There will be planning meetings to attend. These are open to any members who would like to attend. If you have ideas please contact any of the club officers or the planning committee members. We welcome any input you may have. I would like to wish each of you the very best for the new year. Let's make 2005 the best yet for the ECARC.

73 (best wishes)
Mark Frankie
KA5TBK

December Club Meeting Notes

Due to the Christmas holiday season there was no December meeting and therefore no notes to note. Next club meeting will be Thursday, January 20, 2005 at 7:30pm. This meeting will also encompass Old Timer's Night in recognition of the contributions made to our club and amateur radio by Hams licensed for many years. I look forward to seeing you there!

73,

Richard Bird KD5NFW

RARE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (VU4) DXPEDITION ON THE AIR!

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The National Institute of Amateur Radio-sponsored DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands (VU4) took to the air December 2 at 1831 UTC, generating a lot of HF excitement. The five-member NIAR team, headed by Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, will operate as VU4RBI and VU4NRO from the capital city of Port Blair through the end of December. Andaman and Nicobar Islands is considered among the top most-wanted DXCC entities--some listings put it at number 1. While the DXpedition's first and primary activity has been on 20-meter SSB, operation has begun to expand to other bands and modes. As of week's end, numerous US stations were still reporting trouble even hearing either VU4 station, much less working them. DX spot comments such as "zilch in Ohio" and "nuttin in NNJ" reflected the frustration of those witnessing the success of fellow amateurs elsewhere. An opening to the East Coast December 9 eased the pressure a bit. While some CW operation using the VU4 call signs early on was apparently the work of a pirate, the DXpedition did start up briefly on 15 CW on December 8. The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> this week had reported that US amateur Charly Harpole, K4VUD, might join the Andamans DXpedition as a guest op, but things did not work out. On December 10, The Daily DX reported Harpole would visit the

DXpedition "as a tourist" to take photos and video, but not to operate. "However there is nothing that will stop him from listening, making suggestions or helping with any projects in order to keep the operators QRV around the clock," added The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR. McClenny, who also edits "How's DX?" for QST, said Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, has generated PropView short and long-path propagation forecasts between each continental US call area and the Andamans http://www.ambersoft.com/Amateur_Radio/VU4. The projections used are optimistic, McClenny said. VU4RBI and VU4NRO are the only call signs authorized from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. QSL to NIAR, Rajbhavan Road, Hyderabad-500 082, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA. More information is available on the NIAR Web site <http://www.niar.org/>.

AR ASSISTS TSUNAMI RECOVERY

The following report comes from the American Radio Relay League website on December 27:

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 27, 2004--**Here is an update on the current situation in India**, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sri Lanka, with thanks to [The Daily DX](#), courtesy of its editor *Bernie McClenny, W3UR*, and from *Horey Majumdar, VU2HFR*: News agencies now report estimates of more than 21,000 feared dead from the tsunamis (tidal waves) that took place in the Bay of Bengal December 26. The estimated death toll in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ranges from 2000 to 5000. VU2HFR reports that radio amateurs in India are handling hundreds of pieces of health and welfare traffic regarding people missing and from relatives of those living in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are closer to the earthquake's epicenter. "There is presently no communication from Nicobar Islands," Majumdar reports, noting that Nicobar received more damage than Andaman. McClenny says the VU4RBI/VU4NRO DXpedition team continues to pass traffic and occasionally hand out QSOs. C. K. "Ram" Raman, VU3DJQ, reports he was in contact with Sarath, 4S7SW, a physician operating from the vicinity of a hospital in Mathara, Sri Lanka, which also was heavily hit by

the tsunamis. "He is requesting food, clothing and medicines for relief," Raman reported. "He will be listening 14.195 and 21.295." Telephones are not working there, he said.

McClenny and Majumdar agree that it was fortuitous that the VU4RBI/VU4NRO DXpedition was under way when the disaster struck. "If there is a positive aspect to this disaster, it may very well be that the Indian government--and others--realize the ability of Amateur Radio during these difficult times," McClenny observed.

The initial earthquake off the Indonesian Island of Sumatra just before 0100 UTC on December 26 now has been upgraded to 9.0 on the Richter scale. Since then, the [National Earthquake Information Center](#) has reported some 18 aftershocks split between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The most recent, just before 0100 UTC today, registered 6.1 on the Richter scale. Sandeep Baruah, VU2MUE, reports two emergency frequencies have been established. VU4NRO, the team at Port Blair, will be QRV on or near 14.190 MHz. The club station VU2NRO in Hyderabad on the mainland will relay traffic to and from Port Blair.

Other emergency traffic frequencies being reported include 14.193 and 14.160 MHz in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 7.050 MHz in South India, 7.055 MHz in Indonesia and 7.075 in Thailand, where stations from 4S7, VU2 and 9M2 were reportedly heard. D.V.R.K. Murthy, VU2DVO, and Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, are now in Port Blair. Reports indicate that some telephone lines are now working, but there still is no water or electricity at the Hotel Sinclair, where the VU4 DXpedition was headquartered.

In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the most devastated area is Car Nicobar, which has been totally cut off. It is possible that Amateur Radio operators may travel to this area after obtaining clearance from local authorities. Club station VU2NCT and VU2MUE in Calcutta all are helping with the efforts to pass emergency traffic to Port Blair. Baruah is operating club station VU2NCT in coordination with the National Disaster Control, New Delhi. The Calcutta VHF Amateur Radio Society has set up a control station from Calcutta. Majumdar is operating that station and has been in touch with VU4RBI in the Andamans.

Charly Harpole, K4VUD, who had been visiting the VU4RBI/VU4NRO operation and filing regular reports via *The Daily DX* now is reported back on the Indian mainland.

Majumdar also tells ARRL that hams from Bangalore and Chennai on the Indian mainland are moving toward Nagapattinam to set up ham radio disaster communication stations at Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu--the worst-affected areas on the mainland. The Indian Army is assisting stations on Andaman by providing logistics and backup batteries.

Majumdar says radio amateurs from Bangalore, Chennai and other parts of South India are trying to set up stations in the affected areas of Tamil Nadu. James Brooks, 9V1YC, provided additional information via *The Daily DX*. He says Andaman and Nicobar Islands authorities have asked the DXpedition team for relief communications help. They have requested one station at the deputy commissioner's office in Port Blair and another on the remote Nicobar Islands. VU2RSB will be manning the station at the deputy commissioner's office in Port Blair, and VU2RSI will staff the station at the current DXpedition site until further notice.

He reports the Indian Army will be flying VU2MYH and VU2DVO out to the Nicobar Islands with three days' food, a rig, batteries and an inverted V. The VU4RBI/VU4NOR team was allowed back into the damaged hotel building and Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, "is bravely operating on the fifth floor using the Yagi" despite continued aftershocks. Telephones in the building are also working again.

Commercial power is returning slowly, but the DXpedition team continues to use battery power most of the time. The DXpedition has been suspended, but VU2RBI still is promising to hand out the contacts once emergency communications work is finished. The team has asked authorities for an extension of the DXpedition, but so far this has not been granted. "This decision may change, due to the relief communications work they are supplying," Brooks said. Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, will be leaving on January 1 regardless, he reports, and if any time extension is granted VU2RSB and VU2MYH will remain for an additional week, possibly longer.

Here in the US, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) has been monitoring HF frequencies for news and information in an attempt to assist with emergency communications as needed.--*additional information from K2FF, VA3ORI and WA6KAH*

R.A.C.E.S.

By Danny Woodruff KA5RDB



Last month we talked about the emergency or crisis management system used by Fire Departments,

Emergency Medical Service and Law Enforcement: Incident Command System. Understanding how these agencies work allows us to assist them when they ask for additional communications support.

WHAT HAPPENS: Each Call for Service (CFS) is answered by a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Depending on where you live, this PSAP is located in your local fire department or law enforcement dispatch center. Whatever the cause for this emergency call for help, an appropriate response will be dispatched: Law Enforcement, Fire or Emergency Medical Service. Upon arrival a decision is made by the responding agency to call for additional help to manage the situation. Each primary responder agency in Ellis County, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service, has a list of assets of which to pull from if needed. We are listed as an asset with all these agencies.

We could assist in two areas by providing additional manpower to assist the Fire / EMS service in the search and rescue operations or providing additional communication links if asked to do so. Individually, we could have assisted in the initial search and rescue operations with the Ovilla and Red Oak Fire Departments when the bridge was washed out due to the heavy rains, by making yourself available to them. They needed additional manpower to search sectors they had set up. Primarily they went with firemen from the surrounding fire departments to assist in this search of sectors, as these other departments meet and train together.

For Ellis County Operations, if you have noticed over the past six months or so, they have set up an Incident Command System within the sheriffs department. Depending on the response needed, they have a list of assets to call from as needed.

Weather related: If called by the National Weather Service (NWS) to activate the Weather Spotter Group here, they contact the Ellis County Emergency Management Coordinator. If they can not contact him, they begin calling us on the Call List they have on file.

Depending on the time of day or night, we already have people who are monitoring this weather event. *For an all volunteer organization it's because of you individually, who make this organization work!!*

DISASTER EXERCISE: The results from the exercise with Ennis Regional Hospital are impressive. As this was step one in supporting a hospital those there learned a lot and we now know what we need to do in the future. Three of the most important things we need to do is site survey(s) of probable sites where we might have a need to set up a communications link; equipment needs, and response teams. Additionally we need to look at our own equipment, who has mobile or base VHF radios capable to cross band repeat; who has digital - packet radio capability. When would you like to get together and try out your cross band repeat function of your radio and or packet radio?

To be able to set up shop at the Ennis Regional Hospital and be able to run voice 2M or 70 CM is one thing. Being able to set up and run packet radio using low power is another. The amount of traffic that could be handled with the less noise and interference with hospital communications would enhance hospital communications to outside of the Ennis area..

In the short term we will be meeting with Ennis Regional Hospital to find out from the Debrief what is needed to improve on a communications link for them. The same will happen with Waxahachie Baylor Hospital. They are interested in forming a team to assist them.

UPCOMING EXERCISE: In the next few weeks we will have a basic plan in place to work with the City of Waxahachie Water Treatment Section of its Public Works Division. The City of

Waxahachie has a requirement to be able to control its water system, elevated storage, and waste water treatment in the event of a loss of its city communications system and local control of its control links to its different locations. They have asked us to assist in this test.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas with family and friends. I wish everyone a good and prosperous New Year.

Planning Committee

By Jon Hykel KM5PZ

Well I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Not much to report from the planning committee as of yet but... The January meeting will be the ECARC Old Timers night. There will be a presentation about the history of Ham Radio among other things including a reception with refreshments. Make sure and attend this meeting for fun and fellowship. The Planning Committee is working on club events and activities for 2005. If anyone has any ideas please contact any of the Planning Committee members or come out to the Planning Committee meeting every second Wednesday at 7 pm at Cancun's in Waxahachie. Or you can email Jon Hykel KM5PZ at km5pz@sbcglobal.net.

Richard's Rants

(a.k.a. Bird Droppings)

With many new members joining the ranks of amateur radio and many others upgrading their operating privileges, we have a great opportunity to get these people on the air by participating in contests or even sponsoring our own special events. Traditionally, the main operating activity for our club has been Field Day. This is a great event and many look forward to it each year, but it is not the only one. Every month in the year has several contests, and throughout the year, every band and every operating mode is covered. Several club members have been getting together to operate some of these contests. Our goal is never to actually try to win the contest. We simply enjoy making contacts and spending time together doing something we all enjoy. This month is the North American QSO Party. It is divided into 3 separate

contests on three different weekends with one weekend each devoted to CW, SSB, and RTTY. Each segment is actually only 12 hours long, which makes it pretty easy to work the whole contest. For more information on this contest please follow this link

<http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>.

We are currently trying to decide whether to work this contest as a multi-operator event, or work it individually and make a friendly contest out of it between club members. Both scenarios have their advantages.

If you are interested in working this contest, together or individually, please contact me at kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net or 972 723-8420. If we can generate enough interest and participation we may be able to get a committee together to plan and host some of these events. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and I'll see you on the air!

73,
Richard

January Member Profile: Ron Eves KC5HYT

By Cathy Schack



Ron Eves was born in Waxahachie in 1955. As a kid, he loved taking his toys apart using his dad's tools, and then seeing if he could put them back together. He also developed a love of electronics as a youngster. As young newlyweds in 1974, Ron and his wife became house-parents to fourteen troubled kids at the Presbyterian Children's Home in Waxahachie. Although they were barely nineteen years old themselves, the young couple really enjoyed the challenge, and they stayed for five years. They later worked another four-year term as cottage parents at the Presbyterian Children's Home in Itasca. Although the

job was difficult, it could also be rewarding. One young man they parented later became a minister and a cottage-parent himself, and for a time he served on the Board of Directors at the Children's Home in Waxahachie. Ron also worked for awhile as a butcher and meat cutter, and for many years he was employed by the city of Waxahachie in industrial maintenance. In the early 1990s, he got a grant to attend the DeVry Institute. He earned an associate's degree in electromechanical engineering, which covers robotics and computer-controlled machines of all kinds.

Ron got interested in CB radio in the mid-1970s and for a few years he worked at a CB shop in Red Oak. He made many CB friends over the years, but eventually he felt he had gone as far as he could with the hobby, and his interest turned to ham radio. He got his no-code technician license in 1994 and joined the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club the same year. He also became a RACES member and he recalls many exciting incidents as an enthusiastic storm-spotter.



As Ron says, "I had some real close calls with lightning". He recently renewed his ham license after the initial ten-year term was up.

These days, Ron "sticks close to home", still a RACES member, but now more inclined to do net control rather than storm-chasing. He has his television next to his radios, tuned to a local UHF station Channel 30 in Corsicana that broadcasts real-time doppler radar. On the shelf above his radio, there is a model of a wooden outhouse with an attached radio antenna, a gift from a fellow CB and radio enthusiast KK5UB David Costlow.

Ron enjoys repairing VCRs and small appliances, and he has constructed several computers using spare parts. He still occasionally talks on his CB radio, since that is where his "radio roots" are. He has great respect for the truckers who keep goods moving throughout the country, and he still enjoys talking to them.

Ron would like to see the ham radio club become more involved with local

organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army in doing charitable work for the community. This would also give the club good publicity. More spousal involvement and family-oriented activities and more recognition for club member achievements, such as a "storm spotter of the year" award, would also benefit the club.

Gardening, raising chickens, and restoring antique radios are Ron's hobbies. He also collects antique knives and old fishing rods and lures. Ron lives in Forrester. He has three daughters and one grandson named Zachary.

Boat Anchors of the Month

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) 50' tilt over tower with "Ham4" type rotor and KLM 13 element 2 mtr. Beam / \$200.00 for setup KLM 2 METER 13 element beams , \$125.00 for both (negotiable) 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](mailto:Gary.Haden@KD5ZCP) or 469 348-6817

January R.A.C.E.S. Training Topic

SUPERCELL VARIATIONS

The supercell discussed in chapter IV is considered a "classic" supercell and serves as a baseline when discussing supercell types. Much has been made recently of "low-precipitation" (LP) and "high-precipitation" (HP) supercells, which might lead some to believe that these are truly different kinds of supercells. In actuality, all supercells are fundamentally the same. They all possess a mesocyclone, they are all long-lived, and all are capable of producing extremely dangerous weather. The only difference in these supercells is the amount of visible precipitation which falls out of the storm. Although variations in precipitation will pose different problems for the NWS radar operators and for spotters, the underlying theme is that "a supercell is a supercell, be it LP, classic, or HP."

Low-Precipitation (LP) Supercells

Low-precipitation supercells are most commonly found on the High Plains near the dryline (sometimes they are called "dryline storms"), but they have been documented in the Upper Midwest as well. LP supercells are difficult to detect on radar. The radar echoes are usually small and weak (low reflectivity values). There may not be evidence of rotation within the storm as detected by conventional radar. LP storms are fairly easy to identify visually, however. The typical low-precipitation supercell has a translucent main precipitation area. The main storm tower is usually thin, bell-shaped (flared out close to the cloud base), and has corkscrew-type striations on the sides of the tower.

High-Precipitation (HP) Supercells

High-precipitation supercells can occur in any part of the country. It was once thought that HP supercells only occurred in the Southeast, but they have been documented in the Great Plains as well. HP supercells are easy to detect on radar. They usually have a large radar echo with evidence of rotation within the storm. In some high-precipitation supercells, the mesocyclone is displaced to the southeast or east side of the storm. This displacement, coupled with the copious amounts of precipitation falling from the storm, make HP supercells difficult for spotters to identify. The heavy precipitation may obscure some (or all) of the "rain-free" base area and obscure the important cloud features that are found in this area. However, HP supercells will usually have striations around the main storm tower and will probably have a beaver's tail and a mid-level cloud band. Thus, although events under the cloud base will be difficult to discern, ample evidence will exist to confirm that it indeed is a supercell.

Hybrid Storms

It is rare for a storm to fit perfectly into one of the four storm categories (discussed in chapter IV) for its entire life. Rather, it is common for a storm to evolve from one storm type to another. It is also common for a supercell's precipitation rate to increase during its life, resulting in its "evolution" from an LP to an HP supercell.

One of the more common evolutions a storm may undergo is a multicell-to-supercell transition. As the multicell storm moves along, it may encounter an environment more conducive to supercell formation. One of the updrafts in the cluster may become dominant, and the storm may evolve into a supercell. In fact, numerous supercells with multicell characteristics have been documented! The multicell characteristics in some supercells may give rise to the cyclic nature of some supercells. A cyclic supercell is a supercell which undergoes the mesocyclone formation-tornado formation-RFD formation process a number of times. In the April 3, 1974, tornado outbreak, one supercell produced eight tornadoes as it tracked across Illinois and Indiana. While it is rare for a supercell to produce this many tornadoes, it serves to illustrate the extremely dangerous nature of cyclic supercells.

Besides the possibility of a storm "evolving" from an LP to an HP storm, it is also possible for a supercell to have both LP and HP characteristics at the same time. The main precipitation area, to the right of the storm tower, had a thin, translucent appearance. Beneath the base of the storm, however, a heavy precipitation curtain obscured any important cloud features which may have been present. These LP-HP hybrids are yet another example of the continuous spectrum of storm types that may be encountered in the spotting arena.

Atmospheric Conditions for Thunderstorm Development

All thunderstorms, whether or not they become severe, must have three conditions present in order to form. The first necessary condition is moisture in the lower to mid levels of the atmosphere. As air rises in a thunderstorm updraft, moisture condenses into small water drops which form clouds (and eventually precipitation). When the moisture condenses, heat is released into the air, making it warmer and less dense than its surroundings. The added heat allows the air in the updraft to continue rising.

The second necessary condition is instability. If the airmass is unstable, air which is pushed upward by some force will continue upward. An unstable airmass usually contains relatively warm (usually moist) air near the earth's surface and relatively cold (usually dry) air in the mid and upper levels of the atmosphere. As the low-level air rises in an updraft, it becomes less dense than the surrounding air and continues to rise. This process is often augmented by added heat due to condensation as discussed above. The air will continue to move upward until it becomes colder and more dense than its surroundings.

The third necessary condition is a source of lift. Lift is a mechanism for starting an updraft in a moist, unstable airmass. The lifting source can take on several forms. The most common source is called differential heating. As the sun heats the earth's surface, portions of the surface (and the air just above the surface) will warm more readily than nearby areas. These "warm pockets" are less dense than the surrounding air and will rise. If the air has sufficient moisture and is unstable, a thunderstorm may form.

The source of lift can also be mechanical in nature. Moist air flowing up the side of a mountain may reach a point where it is less dense than its environment, and thunderstorms may develop. This is common on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains during the summer. Advancing cold fronts, warm fronts, outflow boundaries, drylines, and sea breeze fronts also act as triggers by lifting moist, low-level air to the point where the low-level air is warmer and less dense than its environment at which time thunderstorms can form.

January Event Calendar

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



Waxahachie Christmas Parade



2004 Member of the Year Award



2004 ECARC Christmas Party