



THE ELLIS COUNTY REPEATER

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

January 2006
Volume 4; Issue 1

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

E.C.A.R.C. Officers

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W5ZGZ

Treasurer

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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



He even had an extra month and still didn't come up with an article. He promises to turn over a new leaf in 2006!

Club Meeting Notes

By Richard Bird KD5NFW

We had the club Christmas Party in lieu of a monthly meeting for December and unfortunately I did not make the November meeting so I have no notes to pass along. To my knowledge, the only business of significance at the November meeting was the news that we will have to find a new location for our monthly club meetings. Once a meeting place has been identified that information will be passed along.

Everyone had a great time at the Christmas Party on Saturday December 3rd. We had a catered barbeque dinner from Junior's in Red Oak. A big thanks to Kenny Hickey KD5VQN for stepping up at the last minute and taking care of the food for the dinner! We also had a Chinese gift exchange that resulted in more than a few spirited swaps.

The highlight of the evening was when President Mark Frankie presented the award for the ECARC Member of the Year. This year's very deserving recipient was Bob Fitch K5ASU.



The Ellis County Amateur Radio Club and Ellis County R.A.C.E.S. would like to extend our

thanks to Bob for stepping up to the plate and taking charge of a vacated position and his dedication to and participation in club activities. This month's club meeting will be Thursday, January 19 at a location to be determined. This meeting is also our recognition of "Old Timer's" night. I look forward to seeing you all there. The February meeting will have ARRL Assistant Director in charge of the West Gulf BPL Task Force Jory McIntosh KJ5RM in attendance to discuss the latest developments with TXU/Current and BPL in north Texas. Make plans now to attend this very important and informative meeting!

Education Committee

By Robert Crosby KD5YHY

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year. To start off the New Year I would like to schedule an Education Committee meeting for January 11th of 2006. This is the same evening of the Planning Committee meeting at 1900 hours. We will hold our part right after the other committee's agenda is finished. Please come to the meeting to volunteer your expertise and help for this important function of becoming once again a Special Service Club as defined by the ARRL. One of the six requirements of this designator follows below:

New Ham Development and Training

Purpose: Develop an effective, coordinated program of public relations, recruiting, training and ongoing assistance targeted to prospective and newly licensed hams in your community.

73,

Robert Crosby, KD5YHY

Treasurer's Report

By Kenny Hickey KD5VQN

The treasury report was presented at the November club meeting and there have been no transactions for November.

KIDS' TURN AT THE RADIO: FIRST KIDS DAY OF 2006 IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The second Sunday in January is the day to turn your shack over to the kids for some ham radio fun with a purpose. The first running of Kids Day 2006 begins Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time (the second Kids Day will be Saturday, June 17). Kids Day provides a terrific opportunity to show youngsters what Amateur Radio is all about--and that includes its role in emergency communication. ARRL Education and Technology Program ("The Big Project") Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, says Kids Day can be a great opportunity spark change and get kids and families thinking about emergency preparedness. "While you are coaching the youngsters who visit your shack--and their parents too--on how to make contacts and new friends via ham radio during Kids Day, why not take a few moments to ask them about their family's plans to deal with emergency challenges?" he says in December 2005 QST (see "Kids Day 2006" on p 45). "Why not use the opportunities offered by Kids Day to show the youth in your neighborhood that ham radio can be loads of fun, and that ham radio is a way that they can contribute something very valuable to their communities?" Call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange for Kids Day contacts is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz. Contacts via VHF repeaters are okay too, with permission from the repeater owner. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>. All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate, which becomes the youngster's personalized "sales brochure" for ham radio, Spencer says. The League asks everyone taking part in Kids Day to

complete a short survey and post comments afterward <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>. Doing this provides access to download the certificate page, or participants can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009. Spencer notes that this year's hurricane season highlighted one of the real values that ham radio brings to the community--a spirit of resilience. "By their very nature, ham radio operators are interested in personal preparedness and community service...this is resilience," he says. Spencer suggests that Kids Day sponsors take advantage of the opportunity to show how ham radio offers a way for participants to contribute something very valuable to their communities. "A very effective advertising strategy is to get kids hooked on an idea," he says. "The kids in turn go home and 'bug' their parents about the idea. You plant the seed in a young mind, and they will take care of the rest!" Spencer believes Kids Day activities can result in a family emergency plan campaign that could save lives, and future community planners who know communication and how to communicate. "Make that personal connection that may result in a new licensee and, perhaps, more resilient individuals by opening your station and inviting kids and neighbors to share in your hobby," Spencer urges. "You just might find yourself re-infected with that enthusiasm that you once had." Visit the ARRL Web site for full information on Kids Day <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>.

R.A.C.E.S.

By Bob Fitch K5ASU

Well another year is already over. During 2005 we were activated nine (9) times for severe weather conditions. We had 147 participations during these RACES nets. I have not figured the number of man-hours of service provided to the National Weather Service, Ellis County and the City of Waxahachie, but it would have been a lot of man-hours. This is valuable free service provided to these government agencies and I wish to thank each and every one of you that took the time to participate. Your service

provided information to them that was needed to prevent the loss of life and property. Again Thank You. We also participated in a number of public service events. We got good training in the proper way to conduct a net and provide timely communications to the authorities conducting the events. It provided us with knowledge of how we can best operate under adverse conditions and accomplish the mission. It shows us how we can improve our personal equipment and how the repeaters can be best utilized to provide the necessary communications. Thanks to all that participated in these events. I want to wish all of the RACES members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob Fitch – K5ASU
RACES Radio Officer

Richard's Rants

Aka Bird Droppings

I hope everyone had a happy, safe holiday season. I also hope everyone has rested up because 2006 is here and the events will be coming pretty quickly. We will have a RACES training net Thursday January 5, an Info Net January 12, and a club meeting January 19 which will also include Old Timer's Night. The North American QSO Party is the weekend of January 21. If you have never worked this contest, it's a great opportunity to get WAS in a single weekend. There is also a team category for 2-5 members. I plan on working this contest. If anyone else is interested in working it as a team, please let me know so I can get us registered. With the unusual "winter" we are experiencing, severe weather season may be here before you know it. The Tarrant County Skywarn school will be Saturday, January 28, at the Paschal High School auditorium. It is scheduled from 9:00am – 4:30pm. Must be some kind of advanced training in a 7 1/2 hour class! The Ellis County Skywarn school is scheduled for Tuesday February 28 at the Waxahachie High School Fine Arts Center from 7:00 – 9:00pm. If you did not attend a Skywarn session last year, you need to attend one this year to fulfill your RACES training requirements.

73 KD5NFW

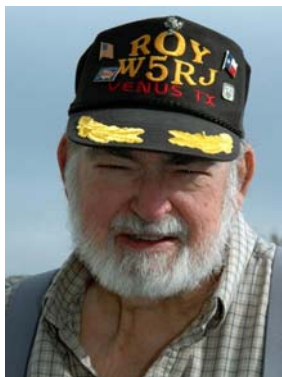
Repeater Activities

There has been a lot of activity lately involving the location of the repeater. We were informed in early December by the City of Waxahachie that we needed to have our equipment removed from the site by January 1, 2006 for renovations. On December 16 we received permission from Holcim Texas cement plant to locate our repeater equipment on their property. On Friday December 23, Mark Frankie and myself set up a modest station at the proposed site. The results were very promising. We talked to stations all over Ellis County with 5W or less. We made contact to an Arlington station on 1W and a Ft. Worth station using 5W with the antenna still inside the vehicle! I would like to thank everyone that participated in this experiment and especially those that went mobile to help us to better evaluate this site. Resources are being gathered to facilitate the permanent move to this location. In the mean time, a work party was organized on Saturday December 31 to remove the equipment from the Waxahachie site. Everything was removed and then reconnected at a temporary site in Midlothian in about 6 hours. Thank you very much to everyone that volunteered their time to get this very important task completed. You know who you are. Updates will be posted as we progress toward the final move of the repeater. I hope it works well for everyone in the county!

73,
Richard KD5NFW

ROY JONES – VEC FOR ELLIS COUNTY

By Cathy Schack KE5DIO



Roy Jones W5RJ of Venus, Texas has volunteered to be the new Volunteer Exam Coordinator for the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club. His

official paperwork has been completed

and he is ready for the January hopefuls who wish to take examinations.

Roy first got interested in ham radio in 1955 through a neighbor who was retired from the Navy. The neighbor had a Heathkit transmitter and Roy was awed by the way he could talk to people all over the world with it. Despite his interest, Roy didn't actually get licensed until 1977. He served eight years in the Air Force, married and had a family, and worked for the Post Office for 24 years. In 1976 his interest in ham radio was rekindled, and he obtained his Novice license the next year. His first radio was a Heathkit HW-101. He received his General license in 1978 and his Advanced license in 1980, finishing up with his Extra Class license in 1982. Even after all these years, Roy still finds it fascinating how "you can apply voltage to a single wire and put out a signal that can be heard around the world." He enjoys communicating using Morse code and he looks forward to tutoring club members who are interested in mastering it.

We welcome Roy as our new volunteer examiner and we all wish him the best. Roy can be contacted through the AARL website or the Ellis County club.

Marian Jones (AKA Mrs. Roy Jones) Prepares to Take the Ham Exam

By Cathy Schack KE5DIO

As Roy prepares to become our new club VEC, his wife Marian is studying to take her exam. Her goal is to eventually complete all three levels, including the Morse code requirement.

Marian grew up in Missouri in a military family. While she was growing up, the family moved frequently and lived all over the world. After her dad retired from the military, the family returned to Missouri. Marian attended college there, earning a degree in music, majoring in piano and voice. Her affinity for music has been instrumental in helping her to learn Morse code, which she does not seem to find intimidating. Musical notes and code have a lot in common, she says.

After she divorced in 2001, Marian met Roy, a widower, through an online dating site.



At the time, they both lived in San Antonio. When they finally arranged to meet at a local donut shop, they both knew they were meant to be together, because "they both liked their coffee black and their donuts plain". This was the first of many things they had in common. They have been happily married since September of 2002. We wish Marian best of luck on her exams and we welcome her and Roy to the club.

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

The January RACES training topic will be a surprise. It will also be a surprise to me because I have yet to come up with it. If you have any ideas on topics you would like covered, please let me know.

73,
Richard KD5NFW

January Event Calendar

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

Boat Anchors For Sale or Trade

For Sale: Mosely TA-36 six element Tri-band beam [details](#)
 Contact: Martin, WA2IRK 469 682-2233

For Sale: MFJ-986 Differential-T Tuner \$220; ICOM 706 MKII \$400
 Contact Jon Hykel at km5pz@sbcglobal.net