



THE ELLIS COUNTY REPEATER

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

July 2005
Volume 3; Issue 7

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

E.C.A.R.C. Officers

President

Mark Frankie
KA5TBK

markfrankie@aol.com

Vice-President

Richard Bird
KD5NFW

kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Ray Calhoun
W5ZGZ

Treasurer

Kenny Hickey
KD5VQN

kd5vqn@yahoo.com

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



June was a great month for the Ellis County ARC. We worked the Tour d' Italia Bike Race, Field Day and now we are hot on the trail of a new repeater. I would like to thank all of you who are participating in

club events and invite any of you who have been watching from the side lines to find a place and take part. Working public service events serves several purposes. First, it allows us to evaluate our skills and make changes where necessary. Second, it places us in the public eye and promotes good will for our club. Last, it fosters camaraderie between club members and teaches us to work together as a team. Field day was a great success. We made more contacts than in prior years. We had the biggest turn out we've had in five years. We were able to utilize more antennas and better stations. Because of this we had more operators able to work different modes on different equipment. Thanks go out to the following people: Glenn Cobb KC5JQK for setting up the logging program and networking the computers....while on the subject of Glenn Cobb, he was the only participant who stayed and worked the full 24 hours without sleep; John Hykel, KM5PZ, for all the leg work and planning; Gary Haden, ZPC for frying the fish and providing the appliances to do it - - - without a single case of food poisoning reported; Roy and Wendell for their CW contacts, we couldn't have done it without them; Richard, Charles, Tommy, Kenny & Robert for helping with the set up of numerous antennas and stations. I'm sure I've left somebody out, and if so, you know who you are and please accept my thanks. Thanks to everyone who showed up to support the Club.

By the next club meeting we should have exciting news for you regarding a new repeater. We are also looking forward to working another blood drive in the near future - stay tuned for details. We also have the disaster exercise with Ellis County coming up. If we plan this properly it will give us a great chance for more exposure with our local government, police & fire departments. This is a great time to be a member of the Ellis County ARC. There is a lot to be done and a lot of jobs to be filled which

gives each of you the opportunity to jump in and have fun.

73

Mark Frankie
KA5TBK

June Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The June club meeting was held Thursday, June 16 with approximately 20 members present. The meeting was called to order at 19:30. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes from the May meeting and they were accepted by the members present. Robert Crosby KD5YHY gave an Education Committee Report. Please see Robert's article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details. Jon Hykel KM5PZ gave a Planning Committee report dealing mainly with Field Day 2005. Please see Jon's article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details. I gave a brief report from the Repeater Committee. Basically, no news is bad news. At this point Bill Cleaver KD5PMB addressed the club. As many of you know, Bill has sold his Waxahachie home and moved to Ft. Worth. Bill thanked the club for all the good memories and wanted to leave a lasting memory for us as well with a donation to the repeater fund in the amount of \$1,000! In honor of Bill's contributions to the club, both monetarily and his volunteer work, a motion was made and passed to make him a Meritorious Life Member of the ECARC. Congratulations Bill and good luck with your exploits in West Texas! A committee was formed to begin looking at purchasing a new repeater. The members are WB5GUG, KM5PZ, W5XB, KD5NFW, and KD5YHY. If you have any input on this very important topic, please contact one of these members. A date of Saturday, August 20 was selected for the 3rd Annual ECARC Blood Drive. Actual location is TBD and will be announced. Two plastic folding tables were purchased for use at club events. Robert was tasked with researching for a canopy/tent for club events. Three hundred dollars was approved to purchase food and related items for Field Day. Last but not least on the agenda was election of officers. All current officers agreed to serve another term and were unopposed. Your 2005-2006 club officers are President Mark

Frankie KA5TBK, Vice President Richard Bird KD5NFW, Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ, and Treasurer Kenny Hickey KD5VQN. Please join me in congratulating each of these members and in pledging support to the club throughout the year. This is a friendly reminder that dues were due at the June meeting. Failure to pay your dues by August 15 will result in being dropped from the roster. The ECARC is very active now and needs all revenue to support its activities. Thank you in advance for your support. The next scheduled monthly meeting will be Thursday, July 21 at 19:30. I look forward to seeing you there!

Planning Committee Field Day 2005

by Jon Hykel KM5PZ

Ok, let me start off by saying that since the club has been so busy, we are giving everyone a break on activities so we can get caught up with other club business. However the Planning Committee is meeting as normal to keep the ball rolling.

Field Day 2005 was very special for ECARC. This year Field Day was held at Mott Park, Lake Bardwell just outside of Ennis. Members started gathering on Saturday at 10am for the weekend long event. This year we operated with 2 stations, a Yaesu FT1000 MP from KM5PZ and an Icom 746 Pro from KA5TBK. Our GOTA Station was an Icom IC 706 from KD5NFW. We ran a ground mounted Hustler vertical on the GOTA station, a Cushcraft R7 Vertical on the 746 and dipoles on 20 and 40m on the MP that were strung up on a 60ft pushup pole. Our operating position was under 2 nice canopies that were on loan to the club for the event, complete with fans to keep us cool in the hot Texas sun. The club started its operation at 1:15pm on Saturday by calling CQ and started a really good pileup. Members were treated to a hamburger lunch complete with fresh tomatoes brought by KA5RDC. We stayed refreshed throughout the day with cold drinks and ice cold Ozark water. Wendell N5WC racked up almost 50 CW contacts, as well as Roy W5RJ pitching in a hand working CW as well. Travis, Kenny KD5VQN's son took several contacts down on the GOTA Station with

the help of several licensed club members. Around 4:30pm Glenn KC5JQK along with Richard KD5NFW gave a little demo on APRS. When 5pm rolled around we started preparing for the fish fry and several members broke out the horse shoes and pitched a few rounds. Gary KD5ZCP, Jon KM5PZ and his YL prepared an all you can eat fish fry with all the fixings. Believe me we ate all we could eat and it was great. After a short rest and letting our food settle the night crew came on board and worked the contest till dawn. With the help of KA5TBK, KM5PZ, KD5NFW, KC5JQK, and KE5APL, they racked up contacts left and right. All total the club made around 575 contacts throughout Field Day. A new club record from what we have been told. Several club members, young and old, have remarked on this being the best Field Day they have attended. As I sit here and write this I already have ideas in my head about making next years Field Day even better. 73 all....
Jon KM5PZ

R.A.C.E.S.

by Bob Fitch K5ASU

We have had a very active period in the RACES group. We have provided communications for a number of events and had a few weather nets to make the spring-summer interesting. Now we are moving into the time of the year when we have to start watching the Gulf of Mexico for tropical storms and hurricanes. These storms present us with a new set of problems if one of them should come out of the Gulf and take a track to the west of the Ellis County area. Normally we do not worry a lot about tropical storms, but when this path is taken by a storm we are then in the northeast quadrant of the storm. It is in this area that the highest winds and the heaviest rains can affect the county. It is also in this quadrant that tornadoes are produced by the tropical storm. We need to refresh our minds on the nature of tropical storms and keep informed on the location and track of all storms affecting Texas. Reminder that I still need pictures of those RACES members that have not yet gotten Robert KD5YHY to photograph them and provide them to me. No further action can be taken on an ID card for those without the picture.

I want to complete this project so I can put my efforts into other RACES projects and problems.

I want to thank all the members that participated in the Tour d' Italia and provided such great communications for the events. We improved our service to the event about 100% over the 2004 Tour. The Tour director was delighted with our participation and has expressed the desire for us to provide this service next year and years to come. A "BIG THANKS" to all members who participated.

73s – Bob Fitch – K5ASU

Richard's Rants

aka Bird Droppings

Thank goodness June is behind us now! With Ham-Com, the Tour d' Italia, and Field Day in addition to the normal monthly club activities, it was a very busy month. Jon has written a nice article on Field Day, so I would like to comment on our Tour d' Italia efforts. Planning for the Tour began back in early March with Robert KD5YHY contacting the officials from Lone Star Cyclists. Robert spent a lot of time going to meetings and corresponding through phone and email to gather all the details we needed to successfully provide communications support to this event. I would like to thank him for all the time and effort he put in to make this event run smoothly. Robert also assisted me with the initial communications check of the course. With the poor performance of the GE repeater, it became painfully clear very quickly that we would have to use someone else's repeater or attempt to operate communications over a 3 county course simplex. With the help of Robert, Mark KA5TBK, Bob K5ASU, and Glenn KC5JQK, we erected a 35' push-up pole with a Ringo Ranger at Frost. We then fanned out across the course continuously checking the quality of transmissions. We found that communication was possible throughout the entire course with only a couple of "weak" areas. We figured we would raise the mast another 10' and all would be fine on race day.

We had a very good showing of volunteers from the ECARC with 16 signing up for the event. We also had 2 members from DARC sign up for the coveted SAG positions! Everyone

showed up for their assignments in a timely manner and we had a couple who were asked to change responsibilities which they were more than happy to do. The event went off without a hitch. I would like to thank everyone for their professional performance at this event and for putting amateur radio and its capabilities out to the public in a positive light.

I would like to thank all of the Rest Stop operators, KE5DUX, KD5YHY, WX5B, KA5TBK, and KE5APL for the great job they did keeping Bea the Rest Stop Coordinator informed of needed items. I would like to single out and congratulate KE5DUX for the outstanding job she did participating in her first PSE at Rest Stop #3! I'd like to thank all the Rovers, KM5PZ, W5RJ, WB5GUG, KD5ZCP, K5ASU, KD5WPI, and KE5AZU for the great job they did keeping the riders safe and going the extra mile to transport some of the tired riders that just couldn't make it to the next stop.

Thanks to KC5JQK for holding down the fort at the Italy High School. He was kept pretty busy shadowing Anne the Rally Coordinator and helping coordinate supplies with Bea.

An extra special thanks goes out to N3UF and N5DJC for coming down from Dallas to help us out. They both did an outstanding job in the SAG positions. It seems like it is always difficult to fill the SAG positions and they stepped up to the plate and did a professional job.

Thanks again guys!

My apologies to KA5TBK and KE5APL. They both filled multiple positions from their key location in Frost. They acted as NCS, Rest Stop 1, and Rest Stop 5.

Throughout the entire day they performed their duties while being constantly tortured by the Singing Elvis! Great job!

You all did a great job providing communications support to this rally which had 1,387 riders! It all went off without a hitch and you are to be commended for the job you did. I hope the rally directors listen to our advice and want operators with the SAG and bike trucks next year. That is about the only improvement that I see we need. I look forward to seeing you all in Italy again next year!

73,

Richard KD5NFW

Education Committee

by Robert Crosby KD5YHY

Hello to all of you,

The Education Committee has been meeting with the Planning Committee members the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 in the evening at a local restaurant. The committee is open to all who would wish to contribute. Please come to the meeting because we need your help. It is going to be a busy summer so it has been decided to wait until later this fall to see about holding another Technician class.

My goal this summer is to upgrade my license to General. I am working with W5RJ (my Elmer) for passing the Element One requirement. So if anyone is interested in W5RJ's help drop him an e-mail because I am sure he would be interested in hearing from you concerning CW.

In closing KD5PMB is moving to Fort Worth. This is a great loss to the committee. The Technician class we held last year was the result of Bill's hard work. Bill led the effort and contributed many hours to help this class be a success. I am very fortunate to have had the pleasure of working with Bill, and to learn from him on how to hold a successful class. Thanks Bill, and don't be a stranger since you are still close by!

73,

Robert KD5YHY

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

We have made it through one year with me as your RACES Training Officer and somehow survived. For the next several months I will be pulling topics from the National Weather Service "Advanced Spotters' Field Guide".

For the month of July, we will go over reporting criteria, hail size estimates, wind speed estimates, and safety tips. On another note, a lot of work was put into creating maps of predetermined spotter locations for Ellis County. Please take the time to download at minimum the county-wide map and familiarize yourself with the locations.

73,

KD5NFW

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](mailto:GaryHaden@KD5ZCP) or 469 348-6817

July Event Calendar

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



Ennis Polka Fest Parade Float



Roy Jones W5RJ makes a FISTS presentation at the May club meeting

Field Day 2005 Operations Center



Operating positions inside the Ennis F.D. emergency communications van

Several of the volunteers that manned the van during the Polka Fest

