

Repeaters  
2m: 145.410-  
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## THE ELLIS COUNTY REPEATER

Official Newsletter for the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club  
[www.wd5ddh.org](http://www.wd5ddh.org)

June 2004  
Volume 2; Issue 6

### E.C.A.R.C. Officers

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Secretary

Ray Calhoun  
W5ZGZ

Treasurer

Danny Woodruff  
KA5RDB

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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



This is a great time to be in the Ellis County ARC. We have more going on in the near future than we have had for a long time. We will be providing communications for a bicycle race in June.

We are ordering hats, shirts and vests. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for order forms. The repeater is operating very well and will soon be even better. We are in good shape financially and about to be better because of a new dues cycle. The meetings are very well attended. If you have been absent, I would like to encourage you to try to attend again. They are fun and informative. We are about to have elections again and we can use all the help we can get. If you would like to become involved please feel free to let us know. The more people we have to share the work the better job we can do as a club. If it has been a while since you have donated your time and effort, now might be the time for you to get back in.

This is storm season again. This means we need your eyes, ears, and radios. If you have been monitoring the RACES nets you know we have had very good participation and coverage but we can always do better. I'm sure there is a place for you. We need mobile stations as well as fixed. If you have not become active in this part of HAM radio, now is as good as any to any to start.

I'll be looking for you at the next meeting or on the air,  
Mark Frankie  
KA5TBK 73

## May Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The ECARC monthly meeting was held May 20<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 16 members. Pre-meeting entertainment was provided in the form of a video of Parker County storms filmed on April 30<sup>th</sup> by KE5AZU under the close supervision of KD5NFW!

Bill Cleaver KD5PMB purchased and brought examples of the new ECARC hats, shirts, and vests for show and tell. Order forms for the new club merchandise were distributed to the members in attendance. An order form has been posted to the club's website at [http://www.wd5ddh.org/merchandise\\_order\\_form.htm](http://www.wd5ddh.org/merchandise_order_form.htm). For those of you who do not have internet access, an order form has been included in this mailing. The club will place its order on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Bill has agreed to accept orders from club members and deliver them to Embroid-Me in Waxahachie. You may also deliver the order to Embroid-Me yourself. The address, phone, and fax numbers are at the bottom of the order form. **Orders will be held until Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> because the price for each item is conditional on a minimum order.** If you intend to purchase some or all of these items, please do not delay in ordering. It will cost everyone more if we do not make the minimum order.

President Mark Frankie KA5TBK called the meeting to order at 19:45. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the previous month's minutes and they were accepted by the club members present. Club Treasurer Danny Woodruff KA5RDB submitted a Treasurer's Report and it was accepted by the club members present. A motion was made to disconnect the phone line from the repeater controller. After a round table discussion, it was agreed to disconnect the phone until the controller is repaired at which time the need for a phone line will be reevaluated. Bill KD5PMB brought it to the club's attention that some information published regularly in the Waxahachie Daily Light regarding the club is incorrect. He volunteered to contact the paper and get the misinformation corrected. Robert Crosby KD5YHY attended a meeting earlier in the month with the Lone Star Cyclist Club regarding the Tour d'Italia Bike Race and gave a report to the club. Robert was scheduled to attend another meeting Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> to finalize the requirements needed from the club for communications during the event. At this time we have 13 club members who have volunteered their time to support the club in this event. Bill Martz WB5RFM suggested the club put together a table for Ham-Com to raise money for the club. After much discussion on the topic, it was decided that this was a very good idea but there

was not enough time to get everything together. It was decided that we will target a local hamfest in the near future for this money making opportunity. Bob Fitch K5ASU will assemble the vertical HF antenna he donated to the club and have it ready for deployment at this year's Field Day. Gary Haden KD5ZCP and Jon Hykel KM5PZ were added to the Club Officer Nomination Committee and Bill WB5RFM was removed.

June is going to be a VERY BUSY month for our club. Just check out the event calendar. We have our RACES Training Net on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Club Information Net nicely facilitated by KD5YHY on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Breakfast QSO at Cancun's on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the June club meeting with Officer Elections and payment of dues on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Ham-Com on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, the Tour d'Italia on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Field Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>! Fire up a stiff pot of coffee and take your vitamins, you will need all the energy you can muster to make it through this month!

Thanks to all the volunteers who are stepping up to the plate to make your club enjoyable as well as an asset to your community.

## Amateur Enforcement Cases Declining

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The number of Amateur Radio enforcement cases has continued to drop since a five-year peak of 350 in 2001. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth told the Dayton Hamvention 2004 FCC Forum May 15 that 240 ham radio enforcement cases crossed his desk last year. As his tenure in amateur enforcement enters its sixth year, he's estimating only 175 cases in 2004. "Two years ago at Dayton, I said that I hoped the day would come soon when enforcement would not be an issue in the Amateur Service," Hollingsworth said. While he doesn't believe amateur enforcement is in "maintenance mode" yet, it's well on its way, he said. But he urged his audience not to become complacent just because there's active FCC Amateur Service enforcement. Although the percentage of "hard-core" cases is very small and rapidly declining, the remaining cases include "some real nasty ones," he said. Hollingsworth said his main worry remains inappropriate or illegal on-the-air

behavior and the sometimes-negative image it can present to decision makers at a time of broadband over power line (BPL) and other threats to amateur spectrum. He proposed that amateurs concentrate on improving how they conduct themselves on the air while letting him deal with the remaining bad apples that require his attention. "No enforcement program in the world can save certain people from themselves or from being an embarrassment to the entire service," he said--reiterating a refrain that's now almost become his mantra. "If anything is the downfall of Amateur Radio, it will probably be the microphone. You have to focus on your image--what you sound like--all the time." Hollingsworth also told the forum he's convinced that further Amateur Service restructuring is a necessity. He also suggested that amateurs be less concerned about any perceived "dumbing down" of the licensing requirements, because ham radio will continue to thrive in any event. "It's not really what you do to get into Amateur Radio that counts. It's what you do once you get on the air," he said.

## R.A.C.E.S.

by Bob Fitch K5ASU

We are coming to the end of the spring storm season in Texas. That is not to say that we can't have any more thunderstorms, but it will slow down from this point until about the 1 Oct. The bad news is that we are just starting the hurricane season in the Gulf. Most people think that this has no effect on Ellis County. The fact is that we can get a lot of problems from hurricanes when they enter Texas along the coast from Port Arthur to Brownsville. The natural path of a hurricane after it comes on shore is to make a right curve and head for the northeast. This is caused by the rotation of the storm and the rotation of the earth. In Ellis County if this path is over the county a lot of bad things can happen and have happened in the past. We can experience high winds and tornados in the path of these storms and very heavy rains. Heavy rains cause flash flooding, which takes more lives each year than tornados. The RACES organization has to keep informed during the year depending on the season. We never have a time that bad things can't happen in the county.

This is not to be considered an attempt at scare tactics. It is just a fact of life that Mother Nature has a big bag of tricks and she spreads them out during the year to keep people on their toes. Mostly the preparation for hurricanes is the same as other storms. The only thing we have to change is our observation of conditions farther out than we do with thunderstorms in the spring. We have to keep track of what is going on in the Atlantic as far away as the coast of Africa. Some storms start just off the coast of Africa and they make it all the way into the Gulf of Mexico and end up striking the coast of Texas. This can take a lot of days for the storms to make the way to Texas. Many change their course a number of times on the trip. When they do get here if they make the trip they can cause a huge amount of damage and can take a number of lives in the trip across Texas. Some storms on the other hand form in the Gulf and they reach the Texas coast in a very short time. We can't count on the long lead-time on storms of this kind. They can do the same damage as the ones that come all the way across the Atlantic. The hurricane season starts on the 1 Jun and goes thru the 30 Nov each year. Make it a practice to keep informed on the conditions in the Gulf and the Atlantic during the summer and fall. The season reaches a peak about the 1 Sep. More strong storms are around this time of the year, but any hurricane can be bad regardless of the time of the year.

## MINOR FCC AMATEUR RULE CHANGES BECOME EFFECTIVE JUNE 1

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The FCC says minor amendments to various Amateur Radio (Part 97) rules become effective June 1. The regulatory changes, which the FCC made on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions, appeared May 5 in the Federal Register. The most extensive and substantive rule change involves §97.307, Emission standards, where the FCC revised the wording of §97.307(d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or

amplifiers of any power level. Starting June 1, the rule will provide that: \* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed after January 1, 2003, must be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. \* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed on or before January 1, 2003, must not exceed 50 mW and must be at least 40 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. If the mean power output of such as transmitter is less than 5 W, the attenuation must be at least 30 dB. Still exempt from the provisions of §97.307(d) are transmitters built before April 15, 1977, or those first marketed before January 1, 1978. The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator. The change reflects the advent in the late 1990s of the Universal Licensing System <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> electronic licensee database. Under the amended §97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is "a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the ULS consolidated licensee database to be the control operator of an amateur station." The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station." Another change eliminates Technician or Technician with Element 1 credit licensees from the classes of operators permitted to prepare Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) and Element 2 (Technician written) examinations. The Commission ordered the rule changes and additional wording updates within the context of a larger, wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140. That NPRM addresses several Amateur Radio-related petitions and proposes revisions to operating privileges (see "FCC Proposes Wide-Ranging Changes to Amateur Service Rules--Not Restructuring" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/04/15/102/>>). It also denied several petitions. The FCC continues to seek comments on the various proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140. Comments are due by Tuesday, June 15, and reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan <[e.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6513084388>.](http://gulfloss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retriev</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

## **EXPERIENCED HAMS MUST NURTURE NEWCOMERS, HAYNIE TELLS FORUM**

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

It's up to today's Amateur Radio veterans to cultivate the younger generation, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, told the ARRL Forum at Dayton Hamvention 2004 May 15. Calling the statistic "shocking," Haynie cited ARRL survey data showing that more than one-fifth of new amateur licensees never get on the air. He suggested that too few experienced amateurs take new licensees under their wing to help them get started. "One of the things that we need to do is open up our hearts and open up our minds a little bit about the new generation coming along," he said. The addition of another half-dozen ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>> pilot schools has raised the total to 81, Haynie pointed out. While its primary goal is using Amateur Radio to educate youngsters about wireless technology, the ETP has resulted in thousands of new hams--teenagers and younger. "What makes these programs successful, of course, is the local hams, the local clubs getting behind the program and teaching these kids the kinds of things we all know," Haynie said, adding that nothing is too basic or simple. "I didn't know how to put on a PL-259 when I got my General," Haynie admitted, recalling that he'd more than once forgotten to slip the connector's shell over the end of the cable before soldering the plug. Haynie suggested that today's older hams also need to consider that technology is changing, and the questions appearing on the ham radio examinations of tomorrow will be ones "that haven't been thought of yet." In 1972 when he took his General, he said, his test included questions on Hartley and Colpitts oscillators. In contrast, today's examinations cover topics such as phase-locked loops, satellite operation and digital technology. The ARRL president asserted that many Amateur Extra class licensees couldn't

pass today's Element 4 examination if they had to do. Haynie said that if and when the FCC changes Amateur Radio licensing requirements in response to various petitions for rule making--including one from the League--it will not be a matter of "dumbing down" Amateur Radio. "It's not that Amateur Radio is dumbed down," he said. "People like me have failed to keep up, and if you look in your heart, you're going to say the same thing." "Amateur Radio is what you make of it once you get your license," Haynie continued. Getting a ham ticket doesn't make anyone more intelligent, and learning the ropes usually begins after someone already has a license in hand. "You learn by doing," he said. Haynie said the ARRL Board did not take lightly its latest restructuring proposal, and he acknowledged that the League's petition has not won universal praise. "It was not an overnight decision," he said, adding that the Board wanted to take a fair and evenhanded approach to restructuring. How the FCC will act on the Morse code requirement and restructuring "is anyone's guess," Haynie said, but he predicted that the Commission will never reinstate higher code speed requirements as some have requested. "The FCC is not going to go back to 13 and 20 words per minute, and you can take that to the bank," he predicted. "It's not going to happen." "Whatever you enjoy about Amateur Radio, it's not going to change" as a result of any restructuring Haynie said. While the FCC might take "the path of least resistance," he believes it's more likely to take bits and pieces of the various petitions to come up with something that's would be workable and "give Amateur Radio a shot in the arm." "We need that," Haynie concluded.

## This Month's Boat Anchors

This All-In-One Fax/scanner/printer (color) is a unit I used for three weeks for demo. It is packed in original packing and is warranted. I did not want to unpack it so I took a picture of one that Office Depot has on display. They want \$199, I am asking \$150.

I also have a collection of resistors and capacitors of various value, several bulk transistors (I had a shop) and several of the sylvania and RCA individual packaged transistors with cross out listing. The plastic packaging is faded over the years but they are never opened. There is an assortment of other components.

I also have a complete VOR/VORTAC navigation simulator tester. In 1969 this unit cost \$3,200. I have no idea what to ask for it now. There is also a Compaq 4100 series lap top w/software.

Contact David Sheehan at [frdavid@copper.net](mailto:frdavid@copper.net)

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 at [kd5zcp@aol.com](mailto:kd5zcp@aol.com) or 469 348-6817

## June Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 May	31	1 Jun	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	11	12 8:00a Breakfast QSO at Cancun's in Waxahachie
13	14	15	16	17 7:30p <a href="#">ECARC Club Meeting</a>	18 <a href="#">HamCom</a>	19 <a href="#">HamCom</a>  <a href="#">Tour d'Italia Bike Race</a>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Field Day
27 Field Day	28	29	30	1 7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410	2	3
<b style="background-color: #0000FF; color: white;">Jul</b>						

## June Member Profile: Gary Haden KD5ZCP

by Cathy Schack

Gary Haden KD5ZCP was born on June 14, 1962. As a kid, he was “mischievous and devious” (his words) and a daredevil. He once jumped off the roof using a bed-sheet as a parachute and broke several bones. Another time, he jumped out of a twenty-foot high tree house with a rope and fell due to a “knot failure.” He was so accident-prone that his mother had their family doctor’s home phone number, as she frequently needed to call him.

As a teenager, Gary enjoyed tinkering and “taking things apart to see if he could put them back together.” He and a friend built circuit boards with parts from Radio Shack. At age 16 Gary learned to fly a plane and he got his private pilot’s license at age 17. He later learned to fly a helicopter, and even built a helicopter from a kit for a local doctor. Gary worked as a Red Oak police officer in the early 1980’s. He then worked for an oil-drilling company in Houston for several years before returning to Dallas during the oil crunch. For several years he worked at various clubs and honkytonks as a deejay and at radio station KBOC 98.3 in Bridgeport. He also worked for a food service company and in construction, a trade he learned from his dad, who was a contractor. He has worked as a plumber for the last several years, and he will be taking his master plumber’s exam this November.

With his technical skills and background in broadcasting, Gary eventually became interested in ham radio. He bought a technician’s exam study book from the 1980s and searched the Web to find local hams. He found Mark Frankie’s name and contacted him, and Mark gave him some newer study materials. Gary got his technician’s license in September 2003 and soon thereafter joined the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club.

He would like to see the club “continue to grow and get involved in more community activities” instead of being “the best-kept secret in Ellis County.” He thinks that club members should be required to participate in several events a year (blood drives, bike races, parades, etc.) to remain members in good standing. Storm-spotting and RACES activities should not be the only things members participate in; they should also serve the community by participating in events which would bring good publicity to the club as a whole. Gary also suggests that the club do an inventory of equipment and set up a system to maintain, track and sign it out. A more sophisticated system of contacting members during an emergency should also be established, rather than using pagers to contact a few members. A membership roster could be made up with each member responsible for contacting the next member on the list in case of an emergency, such as a plane crash or a terrorist attack. The club should be fully prepared to mobilize at a moment’s notice in such cases. Each member’s talents and strengths should be fully utilized to benefit the club and the community. Gary is a newlywed – he and Cindy got married in March of 2004. They recently bought a home on one acre where Gary has installed several radio antennae. With his

technical expertise and dedication, Gary is a valuable asset to the club.

