

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](http://www.wd5ddh.org)

March 2005  
Volume 3; Issue 3

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

President

Mark Frankie  
KA5TBK  
[markfrankie@aol.com](mailto:markfrankie@aol.com)

Vice-President

Richard Bird  
KD5NFW  
[kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary

Ray Calhoun  
W5ZGZ

Treasurer

Danny Woodruff  
KA5RDB  
[dwoodruff@ectisp.net](mailto: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



The President's Pen has apparently run out of ink this month! We hope he gets a new one before next month.

## February Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The February club meeting was held Thursday, February 17 with 20 members in attendance. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes from the January meeting and the club voted to accept them as read. Planning Committee Chairman Jon Hykel KM5PZ briefly covered the upcoming events for ECARC including TESSA, the ARRL International DX Contest, the Waxahachie Skywarn School, and the Ennis Polka Fest. Please read Jon's article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information. Next on the agenda was an update from the new RACES Radio Officer Bob Fitch K5ASU. Bob stated that his priorities included updating the current roster and getting I.D. cards issued. Please see Bob's article for more information. The Education Committee is still trying to finalize details for the upcoming CW class. At present it is being talked about being conducted on the repeater once a week with study books or tapes available upon request for a nominal fee. Anyone that wants to participate, either as a student or instructor, please contact Robert Crosby KD5YHY at [kd5yhy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kd5yhy@sbcglobal.net). The club approved an expenditure of \$80 to rent a booth for the weekend at the Ennis Polka Fest. A rewrite of the club's bylaws should be available for your perusal at the March club meeting. The anticipated schedule will be to vote on the new bylaws at the April meeting. More information will be forthcoming on this topic as it becomes available. With the resignation of Danny Woodruff KA5RDB as Club Treasurer, the club

nominated Kenny Hickey KD5VQN and Bill Cleaver KD5PMB for the vacated position. Bill declined the nomination and the club voted unanimously in favor of Kenny's appointment to the post. I am sure he will do a fine job. The club accepted 3 new members: Roy Jones W5RJ from Venus, Marjorie Shaheen KE5DUX from Palmer, and Cathy Schack KE5DIO from Waxahachie. Please join me in welcoming them to the ECARC! After the close of the official club meeting, Capt. David Feaser of the Salvation Army gave a brief overview of their operations and then provided club members with a tour of one of their "canteens". The members enjoyed the discussion and the tour, and we would like to extend our thanks to Capt. Feaser for his presentation.

The next club meeting will be Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Get there early to get a seat! I look forward to seeing you there.

73,  
Richard KD5NFW

## SOME NEW WRINKLES IN 2005 FIELD DAY RULES

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Those planning to participate in this year's Field Day will need to bone up in advance on a few changes in the rules for the ever-popular operating event. Field Day this year takes place June 25-26. The 2261 Field Day entries for 2004 were the most ever. While similar in format to a contest, Field Day is primarily a means to exercise and demonstrate Amateur Radio's emergency operating capabilities while having fun at the same time. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that among other things rule changes for 2005 expand eligibility for bonus points. "All groups will be eligible for some kind of bonus points," Henderson said. "Make sure you carefully read Field Day Rule 7.3." That rule spells out how to qualify for such bonus points as 100 percent emergency power, media publicity, message handling, making satellite contacts, using an alternative power source and copying the W1AW

bulletin, among other things. Many bonus point categories are available to all entry classes. Henderson notes that some large clubs often compete among themselves to see who can claim the highest number of transmitters. Under the revised rules, all transmitters must be on the air with an operator to count toward a club's entry class. "You have to actually have individual people and sufficient equipment capable of operating simultaneously," Henderson emphasized, referencing Rule 4. "The key word there is 'simultaneously.'" The Field Day exchange consists of the number of transmitters on the air followed by the participation category (A through F). Operators would send "3A," for example, for a club or non-club portable setup with three transmitters on the air at the same time. Rule 4 also specifically prohibits switching and simulcasting devices. The 2005 Field Day rules also modify the number of transmitters eligible for bonus points that a group can claim for its operating class. "You can only claim the emergency power bonus points for up to 20 transmitters," Henderson explains. "That's a maximum of 2000 emergency power bonus points." There no limit on the number of transmitters eligible participants may have on the air, however. Field Day rules already generally prohibit the use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode. In addition, Field Day 2005 will introduce a new "Youth Element" bonus category (Rule 7.3.15). Clubs or groups operating in Class A, C, D, E or F now can claim 20 bonus points--up to a maximum of 100--for each person aged 18 or younger, who completes a valid Field Day contact. Single-operator Class B stations can earn a 20-point bonus if the operator is age 18 or younger. Two-person Class B setups can claim a 20-point bonus for each operator age 18 or younger, for a maximum of 40 points. The maximum number of participants for Class B entries remains at two. Another rule change clarifies that Get On The Air (GOTA) stations--instituted a few years ago to encourage new or comparatively inexperienced operators to gain operating practice--use the same exchange as the "parent" station. The maximum transmitter output power for GOTA stations is 150 W, and GOTA stations may only operate on the Field Day HF bands. Free transmitters do not

count toward a group's total, and GOTA stations and free VHF stations for Class A entries do not qualify for bonus point credits. Henderson encourages Field Day participants to submit their Field Day summaries electronically using the Web applet form <http://www.b4h.net/cabforms>. "You may input your summary information at that site for a 50-point bonus," Henderson points out. The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH, comprised of former operators of the KPH commercial shore station, now an historic site, again will augment W1AW Field Day CW and RTTY bulletin transmissions for West Coast participants. The complete 2005 Field Day packet now is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/05-fd-packet.pdf>.

## Planning Committee Report

by Jon Hykel KM5PZ

As you all know, next week is the ARRL International DX Contest. We are going to be working this contest from Gary Haden KD5ZCP's house in Waxahachie. We hope everyone finds their way out to the contest site at least once during this weekend.

As we have been saying this contest is going to be a learning experience for the club members with little or no experience in contest. We are going to have several hams on hand who will talk you through the contest experience. Please make plans to come by and talk on the radio for a few contacts... this will pay off for the club during Field Day this year. Also there is a rumor that Gary will be smoking some of that great BBQ he is famous for.

The upcoming Planning Committee meetings are going to be of importance to the club. We must finalize plans on our activities for the Polka Fest in Ennis, our table at Ham-Com, a Bike race or two, and we must also look into the future and start planning for a great Field Day, and we need to do a bit of brainstorming on club events and activities for the future. Remember the Planning Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month at Cancun's restaurant in Waxahachie at 7:30 pm, and all are welcome to attend. If anyone has any ideas for club events and activities please contact a Planning

Committee member or please email Jon Hykel at [km5pz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:km5pz@sbcglobal.net).

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

by Bob Fitch K5ASU



As some of you know and others may not be aware, a change has been made in the RACES Radio Officer for the Ellis County/City of Waxahachie

RACES Organization. I have been appointed the RACES Radio Officer for the Ellis County/City of Waxahachie RACES effective 8 Feb 05. Danny Woodruff – KA5RDB resigned from the position for personal reasons but is remaining with the RACES as an Assistant RACES Radio Officer. Danny's attentions have to be directed to other problems at the present time. I want to thank Danny for the years of service to RACES. It is a job that requires a lot of planning and personal time to accomplish the mission. Most members are not aware of this unless they have held the job as I have in the past. I was the RACES Radio Officer from the time that we founded the unit until I had to turn it over to Danny in approximately 1993 due to the disability of my wife and the job I had of being her caregiver. Thanks again Danny for a job well done.

I am at present reviewing all the records of the RACES organization and making any changes that I find desirable or necessary. Not a lot will be changed. The main change that the members will notice is a change in Asst RACES Radio Officers. These assistants will have the authority to act in my behalf when I am not present. Anytime I am absent, unavailable or out of town I will designate the assistant that will take the lead authority. This will be done so that there is no doubt about who is the assistant in charge and will deal with the County/City authorities. I have not completed my review and will not attempt to put in this article my plans for any changes I desire to make. I plan to discuss this with the Asst RACES Radio Officers and then to present any changes we are making at a club meeting in the very near future.

My priorities are to get the identification cards completed and in the hands of each member. Two things have to be done in this respect. I have to have a picture of the member before I can begin to process a card. Robert Crosby, KD5YHY is present at most all club meetings and has the camera equipment to take the necessary photo for the cards. If you have not had your photo taken then come to the next meeting and have Robert take your photo. When I have the photo I will then process an ID card for you. Another priority of mine is to insure that all members are currently qualified by attendance at Skywarn training and participation in not less than 8 training or emergency nets in each 12 month period. This period will be the calendar year. I am giving all a start on this by counting all present for the January 2005 training net. From that point on it is your responsibility to insure you have the necessary 8 nets and Skywarn training each year. Thanks to all for your participation in RACES as we provide a valuable service to Ellis County and the City of Waxahachie, Texas. We provide emergency communications where and when they need our equipment and training.

Bob Fitch – K5ASU  
RACES Radio Officer

## HAM RADIO SAVES A HAM IN ALASKA

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Two Alaskan hikers on a day outing in rugged mountains near Anchorage saw their afternoon turn into something entirely unexpected February 12. One of them--Jesse Jones, KL1RK--slipped and fell more than 200 feet down a steep ravine, losing his snowshoes in the process. Jones found himself trapped between a low overhang on one side and a swift-moving stream on the other. Even worse was the fact that his descent could continue into the water at any moment, and almost certain death from hypothermia. With more than 10 feet on the ground, the loss of his snowshoes meant he could not walk out. On the plus side, Jones had taken along his 2-meter handheld transceiver. After several unsuccessful tries, he finally was able to access the wide-area WL7CVG repeater

atop Mt Susitna, almost 40 miles distant. "As a control operator for the repeater, I heard his weak 'Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!' call just a few minutes after 4 PM local time," reports Jim Wiley, KL7CC. "I immediately called 911 and was placed in contact with the local fire department rescue coordinator. I was able to pass on Jesse's messages to the local rescue coordinator, including coordinates from a GPS unit he was carrying." Wiley says the rescue coordinator's office called out the local mountain rescue group and the Alaska State Troopers, who immediately left for the scene. The rescue team met with Jones's climbing partner, who had been able to hike out to a place where he could assist the rescuers. Jones was able to keep in touch via 2 meters to report his condition, but his signal into the repeater was marginal. Although uninjured, the sub-zero cold was numbing his extremities to the point that he was having trouble operating his transceiver. Unable to execute the rescue themselves, the team called an Air National Guard unit, which flew a helicopter to the scene. While the presence of high-voltage power lines just above Jones' position complicated matters, the chopper was able to lower some para-rescue jumpers to a nearby location, from which they could rappel to his position and, after a few hours, extricate him. Briefly hospitalized for a checkup, Jones was released just before midnight, cold and a bit hungry, but otherwise okay. Wiley says several local hams also assisted the effort, either directly or by their connection with local emergency service groups. Additional details of the rescue and photos are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2005/02/24/1/>.

## Richard's Rants

a.k.a. Bird Droppings



Texas. Several RACES members took advantage of this unique training opportunity. The day began with a brief

presentation by NBC5 Chief Meteorologist David Finrock on a new NBC cable channel devoted entirely to weather and a new storm reporting tool consisting of a PDA and GPS unit. If you would like more information on either of these topics email David at NBC5. The true training began with National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Woodall and his presentation entitled "Visual, Environmental, and Radar Characteristics of Severe Storms." This training is a supplement to those who have already taken the Skywarn "basic" and "advanced" training. Roger Edwards of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma gave a presentation on "Forecasting storm behavior to customize an intercept strategy for optimally safe viewing before storms develop, and to see changes in storm behavior while in intercept mode." Roger's presentation explained the various conditions that need to be taken into account when approaching a storm to maximize the best view possible while staying safe. Alan Moller with the National Weather Service Office in Ft. Worth gave a presentation on "The Art and Science Of Hand Analysis for Tornado Forecasting." As always, Al's presentation was full of great information and delivered at lightning speed! His presentations would best be video taped and then played in slow motion to get the most out of them. People in attendance included the general public, storm spotters, storm chasers, meteorological students from Texas A&M, professional meteorologists, and researchers. Everyone, regardless of their education or experience level, took something away from this conference.

Storm season 2005 is upon us. We all need to check our equipment, replace batteries, restock water and non-perishable food supplies. As amateur radio operators and RACES members, it is our duty not only to keep our equipment in shape, but also keep active our continued training and participation. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Waxahachie Skywarn School at the end of the month.

73,  
Richard KD5NFW

## March Club Member Profile: Mark Morrow KE5DAG

By Cathy Schack



Mark Morrow was born in California and his family moved to Waxahachie when he was ten years old. Although he was hyperactive as a child, he always enjoyed reading. He still reads a lot, because as he says "you are never too old to learn".

Sitting and talking with Mark in his small apartment in Waxahachie, his intelligence and good nature are obvious. He is positive and articulate as he talks about his life, although he has had many tribulations. He had a difficult adolescence, and in his early twenties he was diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder. Today his illness is well-controlled with medication and he lives on his own and manages his own finances. He writes every day in his journal and he is an avid reader. Using Pell grants, he has been able to attend Navarro College for the past few years and study computer technology and English. Lately, Mark and some of his friends have been writing articles for the local newspaper about the difficulties and the prejudices they face on a daily basis living with mental illness.

After becoming a Christian in 1984, Mark belonged to several different churches, but he did not really feel comfortable until he started attending the Salvation Army church in Waxahachie. He met Captain Feaser on Easter Sunday of last year, and he found that the Salvation Army "didn't just talk about helping people with problems, they actually did it". When the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club asked if they could hold a class at the Salvation Army facility, Captain Feaser encouraged Mark to take the class so that he could man the radio in the Salvation Army's disaster relief van. Mark took the class and then the Technician's test, passing on his first try, becoming KE5DAG.

Because his income from Social Security is small, Mark sometimes does odd jobs to make a few extra dollars. He has been trying to get a part-time job, but so far hasn't had much luck. An extra job would allow him to save for a radio so that he could participate as new member of the Ellis County Amateur Radio club. He would like to be able to communicate on the air and use his intellectual and ham radio skills to "make a positive contribution to the community." He feels that his life has changed for the better in the last year after joining the Salvation Army and the ham club. Having a mental illness can make for a lonely life, but Mark is determined to overcome his challenges and make a positive contribution to the community. He feels that his "spiritual gift is for knowledge, helping others, giving and mercy."



## NEW SECTION MANAGERS START APRIL 1 IN ARKANSAS, NORTH TEXAS AND ARIZONA

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The ARRL North Texas, Arkansas and Arizona sections will get new Section Managers this spring. Ballots cast in the two contested races of the current Section Manager (SM) election cycle were counted and verified February 22 at ARRL Headquarters. New terms of office for successful candidates begin April 1. In the North Texas Section, Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, outpolled incumbent SM Roy Rabey, AD5KZ, 853 to 586. Rabey has served as SM since 2003. A resident of Dallas, Blackwell has served as State Government Liaison for eight years under previous SMs. In Arkansas, David Norris, K5UZ, won the open SM slot 353 to 199 over Terry Busby, W5ARS. Norris, who lives in Batesville, has served as an ARRL Assistant SM for eight years, is active in ARES and RACES and is an avid DXer and contester. He'll succeed Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, who has served since 2003 and did not seek a new term. In Arizona, Tom Fagan, WB7NXH, will take over the reins from Cliff Hauser, KD6XH, who did not seek a new term after serving for 12 years. Fagan, who had no opposition, now serves as Technical Coordinator and has served as Arizona Section Emergency Coordinator for the past two years. He also has held Emergency Coordinator and District Emergency Coordinator positions. Incumbent SMs in four other ARRL sections also ran unopposed and will continue in office for new two-year terms. They are Jim Lasley, N0JL, Iowa; John Meyers, NB4K, Kentucky; Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Mississippi, and Carl Gardenias, WU6D, Orange. Since no candidates have sought to run for the Montana, Puerto Rico and Wyoming SM positions, nominations will be resolicited in the April issue of QST.

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

With the rapid approach of the 2005 storm season, this month's training topic will focus on the R.A.C.E.S. Operating Plan. There has been an update to Section G with regards to "Alert Procedures". This change has been added to the document and can be viewed on the club's website at [www.wd5ddh.org](http://www.wd5ddh.org) on the Ellis County R.A.C.E.S. page. Please take the time to review this new procedure and download a new copy for easy reference.

### March Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> Feb	28	<b>1</b> Mar	2	3	4	5
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410	<a href="#">ARRL International DX Contest</a>	<a href="#">ARRL International DX Contest</a>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<a href="#">ARRL International DX Contest</a>			7:00p Planning Committee Meeting at Cancun's	7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		8:00a QSO Breakfast at Cancun's <a href="#">VE Test</a>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				7:30p <a href="#">ECARC Club Meeting</a>		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<b>1</b> Apr	2
				7:00p <a href="#">SKYWARN Training Class by the NWS</a>		

## Boat Anchors for Sale

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](mailto: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 )

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](mailto: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](mailto: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



Capt. Feaser explains Disaster 101 to Jon and Gary



Charles gets a one-on-one tour