

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

March 2006
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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



As I write this piece today I am looking forward to a predicted 80 degree day. It looks like it's getting close to time to get busy again. There are many things to do this spring. For starters there is a

Skywarn school. This is a good place to start preparing for the upcoming storm season. We have bike races and other events to provide communication for. This will require planning and organization on our part to make these tasks come off in a smooth and deliberate fashion. We are in the process of putting the repeaters in their new locations. I'm telling you about this so you will be aware of all the opportunities you have as club members to participate. In our last club meeting we were brought up to speed on the BPL situation in the Dallas Fort Worth area. This is further evidence that it's important for us to do as much high profile service work as we can to keep the public aware of our part in the community. With all that we have to do this spring I would like to encourage you to redouble your efforts to make every club meeting you can and to jump in and help as much as possible. The rewards of this will come back to us not only on a personal level but will reflect on our club as well. I would like to thank all of you who have kept busy this last year for all your help and time spent. We're looking forward to a good summer this year with lots of activities and fellowship.

73

Mark Frankie
KA5TBK

February Club Meeting Notes

The February club meeting was held Thursday, February 16 with nineteen members present. President Mark Frankie KA5TBK opened the meeting at 7:30 and Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes from the January meeting. The minutes were voted on and accepted by the club members present. A

brief report was given from the repeater committee. The weatherproof cabinet now has a new paint job thanks to Kenny Hickey KD5VQN. At this time, the mounting brackets for the cabinet and the antenna are being fabricated. The major hold up right now is getting the Holcim electricians free to locate the power we need for a dedicated circuit. Please exercise patience. The work will get done as soon as possible. The planning committee had nothing to report. We need some participation and ideas from the members at the next meeting. KD5VQN generously purchased and donated a new controller for the club's repeater. This will be installed once the repeater is in its new location. A tone will also be added at that time.

The entertainment portion of the meeting was presented by Jory McIntosh KJ5RM on the subject of BPL in North Texas. As always, it was a very informative presentation. We discussed the need for a work party to clean out the pile of "treasure" in the building at the Solon tower site. This work was completed on Thursday, March 2, and I would like to thank everyone that showed up to help. We actually had more than enough volunteers for a change.

The next club meeting will be Thursday, March 16, at the Fire Station on YMCA Drive in Waxahachie. Time as always is 7:30pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

73,

Richard KD5NFW

FCC NONCOMMITTAL ON "MORSE CODE" PROCEEDING ACTION

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and

additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next--and most-anticipated--step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date. "There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention." Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined proposing any other suggested changes to the Amateur Service. The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making--many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions--including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants--into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235. The FCC has not proposed extending HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, "codeless Techs" could gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination. Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have *no* impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket--the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15, 2004. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding. In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands and

expanding portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). WT 04-140 further proposed to essentially do away with FCC rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters.

R.A.C.E.S.

I have been working this last week updating the records for the RACES organization. I found that I still have 8 members who don't have an ID card. The ID card is needed in the event of a major emergency in which the organization is requested to help the local authorities. In some cases I have no picture of the member and in other cases I have prepared the card and the signature of the individual is required. I do not want to put the names and call signs on the Internet for the world to see. I just want you to get your picture made by Robert - KD5YHY if that is what is needed. Otherwise check with me to sign your card so it can be laminated. In some cases your card is prepared but you have not been present for me to issue it. Help me finish this project so that I can move on to other things. Soon we will be moving into the spring and summer in which we will be supporting organizations in their public service events. We need to check our radios and mobile installations to insure that we will be able to perform these communication services to the best of our ability. Have a plan "B" in mind in case your first line radio fails. Carry some backup equipment and antennas with you. Some of these events will be supporting other amateur radio clubs. In doing so, we want to do the very best we can for them in a professional manner. In some events other amateur radio clubs will be supporting our club and RACES. Be sure you welcome these operators and treat them with the respect that we want when we are supporting other clubs.

I hate to keep telling members about the participation requirements to maintain membership in the RACES organization, but it is necessary that the membership is properly trained to do their job when

the time comes and we have to perform. Practice in net operations and protocol is something you learn by participation and not by reading it in a document. Keep in mind the list of reportable criteria and do not make a "Clear Sky Report" unless asked to do so by the net control. We will be moving into storm season in this area from now until sometime in June, and we will need very accurate reports for the National Weather Service. Give all reports to the NCS like it is and don't report more than you have observed. I am looking forward to the participation of all members in training and emergency nets this year when the member can possibly participate.

Thanks & 73s.

Bob Fitch - K5ASU

Richard's Rants

Aka Bird Droppings

I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy this early spring-like weather lately. With this type of weather comes a more active weather pattern and potentially severe storms. It also marks the beginning of the Public Service Event season. The next few months will be full of opportunities for you to provide a service to your local community as well as practice your emergency communications operating skills and test your equipment. The first event approaching on the calendar is the Grasslands Run in Decatur sponsored by the Irving ARC. The event will be Saturday, March 25, and the last I heard they were still looking for three volunteers. If you are interested please send an email to this link publicservice@irvingarc.org. The Lancaster Bike Rally is coming up on Saturday, April 8. Several ECARC members participated in this event last year and everyone had a great time. This event is sponsored by the Dallas ARC. They have a new Public Service Officer this year. If you are interested in participating please email Bill Dyer at ke5btz@yahoo.com. We will provide weather spotting services again this year for the Polka Festival in Ennis the weekend of May27. We will be operating from the same emergency communications van as last year. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact me or Bob Fitch K5ASU. June will be a busy month with the Tour d' Italia on 6/17 and Field Day the weekend of 6/24. That list just takes

us through the next 3 months. All of these events qualify for credit towards your PSE requirement to maintain your RACES appointment. Above and beyond that, it's really a lot of fun.

73,
Richard KD5NFW

Treasurer's Report

I gave the Treasurer's Report at the last meeting. We are up to date and we had three transactions in January. Dues are due June 2006 for the 2007 year. Get them in early and, as always, donations are welcome.

your treasurer

KENNY HICKEY KD5VQN

ARRL FIELD DAY 2006 PACKAGES, RULES NOW AVAILABLE

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The 2006 ARRL Field Day package and rules now are available on the ARRL Web site. "The only rule change in 2006 involves the GOTA ('Get On The Air') station bonus-point structure," says ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "An individual operator may earn a 50-point bonus for completing 50 QSOs at the GOTA station. They may earn an additional 50 bonus points when they reach 100 QSOs." Henderson notes there's a 100-QSO cap for bonus points per individual GOTA operator, but additional GOTA operators may earn the bonuses for the club, up to a maximum of 500 GOTA bonus points. "Additionally, Field Day operations can double their GOTA bonus points by having a designated GOTA Coach/Mentor supervise the station whenever it's on the air," Henderson notes. "The GOTA Coach/Mentor may talk the participants through the QSOs and serve as control operator, but GOTA participants must make and log all QSOs themselves." This means that if a Field Day group has a GOTA Coach/Mentor, the 50 and 100-point bonuses GOTA operators earn will double to 100 and 200 points respectively, while the maximum GOTA bonus increases to

1000 points. ARRL Field Day 2006 will be Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25.

Boat Anchors

WANTED: I am looking for a sure 444 mic. to use with my Drake station. I am also looking for a hand mic or desk mic. 8 pin for Yaesu radio. Please contact Billy WB5BXJ at billyandanita@sbcglobal.net

WANTED: crank up tower, at least 60', preferably free standing but not mandatory. Will pick up. Please contact Nick WA6GPW/5 at hkiseloff@sbcglobal.net.

For Sale: Mosely TA-36 six element Tri-band beam [details](#)

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

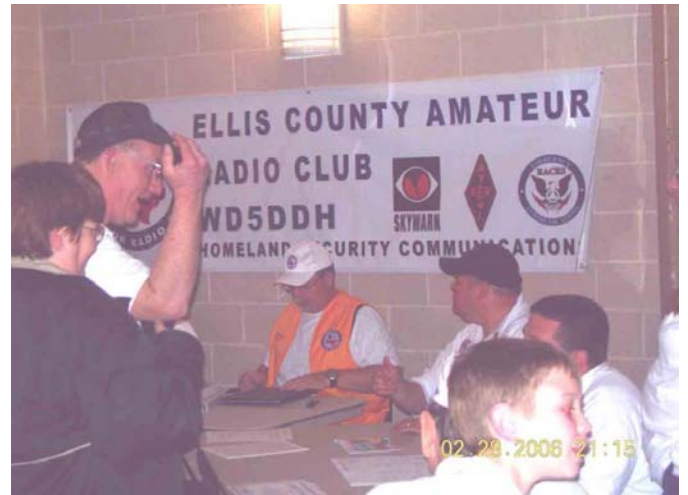
WANTED: I am looking for an AC power cord for a YAESU FT-101EE SSB Tranceiver. Please contact Kevin at: Humbucker407@comcast.net **Thank You**

March Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Feb	27	28	1 Mar	2	3	4
		SKYWARN school WHS Fine Arts Center 7-9:00pm		7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		ARRL DX Contest
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ARRL DX Contest			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
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				7:30p ECARC Club Meeting		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Apr



Jory McIntosh delivers a very informative presentation on BPL at the February club meeting.



KD5YHY does his best to recruit new members at the 2006 Ellis County Skywarn school.