

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

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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



Here we are in the middle of another season change. It's a time of transition for many aspects of Ham Radio. The first and most noticeable of these changes is the weather. Every rumble of thunder

sends us scrambling to the two meter rigs to see what is going on in the RACES world. I have been traveling across many states and listening to many different groups and clubs responding to weather. Some are better and some are worse. The more densely populated areas seem to have better coverage and probably do. The sparsely populated areas seem to be more like ours. The reports are farther apart but seem to be more concise. While we seem to fall into the latter category, I feel like there is some fine tuning we can do to make our weather spotting operation safer and more efficient. Steps have been taken to map the county and locate good and safe locations for spotting. We seem to be gathering a larger group of spotters every month. This is all progress, and as long as we keep progressing forward we can be assured of better and more accurate reports. Our county is a very large piece of real estate to try to watch all at once. It presents its own special set of challenges. We can use all the personnel we can get in the outlying areas. Most of these areas will require the use of mobile spotters as opposed to stations working from home or work. It is my hope that over the course of the next year we might be able to double the group of people who can go mobile during times of potentially violent weather. This type of activity is one of my personal favorites so my other hope is that my work will allow me to be a little closer to home for a while.

While on the topic of seasonal changes, we are beginning the time for more outdoor activities where ham radio can help gather more public awareness. Things like bike races, runs, and other organized activities are good opportunities for us to lend a hand to the community. The more people we can help the more interest we can generate in our hobby and if all goes well the more new hams we can enlist. This should create a cycle of regeneration that can help to fill

the ranks of our club with enthusiastic new members that are ready to serve their community as well as enjoy our hobby.

I hope to be in town for the next two weeks and plan to do as much operating on 2 meters as I can. I look forward to visiting with as many of you as I can.

See you on the air,

Mark Frankie

KA5TBK

April Club Meeting Notes

By Richard Bird KD5NFW

The April club meeting had 11 members in attendance. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes of the March club meeting and they were accepted by the club members present. Robert Crosby KD5YHY took pictures for our new R.A.C.E.S. I.D. cards that Bob Fitch K5ASU has designed for us. Robert will be taking pictures again at the May club meeting so everyone needs to show up to get your mugshot. Mike Cooper from Embroid Me attended the meeting with samples of shirts, vests, and hats for the ECARC and R.A.C.E.S. The members present agreed on colors and designs, and orders will be taken at the May club meeting. An order form will be provided in the very near future. Mike donated two sample caps that were subsequently auctioned raising \$14.00 for the club. Work continues on the spotter map for Ellis County. Club Officer elections will be held during the June club meeting. Make sure your voice is heard by attending the June meeting and casting your ballot. The June club meeting also marks the date when club dues must be paid for the following year. Remember to pay early and pay often. The club needs this revenue to keep the equipment in good operating condition for everyone's benefit. Field Day is June 26-27 at the EOC in Waxahachie. Your local VE team had a test session the second Saturday of April. There was one person who tested and passed for Element 2. Donna Bird KE5AZU will soon be operating mobile from her convertible Mustang. A big thanks to the VE team of Danny Woodruff KA5RDB, Bob Fitch, and Tracey Mooneyhan W5TSM (previously

KD5WRP). The efforts of these gentlemen are what keep this hobby and our club growing. Carter BloodCare has contacted the ECARC requesting summer blood drives. I would like to suggest sponsoring a blood drive in coordination with Field Day. This would provide us with the opportunity to have many club members donate and at the same time, with a thorough advertising campaign, get the club and its activities some much needed public exposure. Please give me some feedback on this idea as I would need to reserve a "blood mobile" as early as possible. The club is moving forward and becoming more active in the public sector. Get your thoughts and ideas in front of your fellow club members. See you at the May meeting.

73,
Richard

MISSISSIPPI AMATEURS RESPOND FOLLOWING AMTRAK ACCIDENT

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Members of Metro-Jackson, Mississippi, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MJARES) and the Jackson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) responded Tuesday, April 6, after Amtrak's "City of New Orleans" passenger train bound from New Orleans to Chicago derailed. One person died and dozens were injured in the mishap, which occurred at 7 PM near the Madison-Yazoo county line after the train had departed from Jackson with 80 passengers and crew members aboard. "Fortunately, rescue operations quickly turned into a cleanup effort as passengers were transported to area hospitals and overnight accommodations," said MJARES member and ARES Emergency Coordinator Ben Jones, AC5SU. The accident's swampy location made access difficult for rescue workers and other emergency personnel and also complicated communication and logistics. Jeff Sykes, K5VU, and other JARC members responded to a request from the Central Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide emergency communication. Greg King, KD5HDZ, accompanied the Red Cross

Emergency Response Vehicle as it brought water and snacks to emergency workers at the incident command post and the Madison County Sheriff's Office respite center in Flora. Club members Bill White, KC5WYY, and Terry Drake, KD5JPB, staffed the JARC radio station at the Red Cross Chapter, utilizing HF as well as the KA5SBK, W5PPB, W5PFR and N5WDG repeaters. John Jenkins, KD5QQF, and Guy Harrell, KD5QGG, also responded to assist in the relief effort. MJARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator Ed Jones, W5GEJ, and Central Mississippi DEC Ron Brown, AB5WF, activated the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service on behalf of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Official Relay Station Lew King, W5LEW, stood ready to service NTS traffic and disaster wellness inquiries. MJARES members worked well into the early morning hours of April 7 to support Red Cross relief operations, passing vital messages relating to logistics and essential on-the-scene information. Jones managed the amateurs' volunteer efforts in conjunction with Red Cross staff and volunteers. Less than an hour before the train wreck, SKYWARN Coordinator and MJARES AEC Billy Bob Sekul, N5XXX, had put members on alert for severe weather at the request of the National Weather Service.

R.A.C.E.S.

By Bob Fitch K5ASU

The production of RACES identification cards is in progress at the present time for members of the organization. Part of the members got their photo made at the last club meeting for their card. We need the other members to come to the meeting on 20th of May 04 and get their photo made by Robert - KD5YHY. The production of the spotter map is a project in progress to get some maps published and in the hands of the spotter teams. These maps show the location of Spotter Locations with the field of view from each location indicated on the map. The locations are numbered and when the map is completed the net control will be able to locate spotters at these check points by number and not have to describe the locations any further to the spotters. This will conserve time on the net and give the spotter a location to report to for service in the storm area. The spotter can then further notify net control when he or she is moving and

which check point he or she will be moving to for their safety and/or better observation of the storm. Hope to have these maps in the hands of the spotters in the near future.

We will be taking orders at the next club meeting for vest, t-shirts and caps for use by the members of the RACES teams. These items along with the identification cards will be very necessary items in the event that we have a very serious event that the RACES members are asked to assist the County and/or City in communications during the event. Please consider your needs and make your order for the items.

FCC PROPOSES WIDE- RANGING CHANGES TO AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The FCC has released an "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rule changes. The FCC also denied several petitions for rule making aimed at altering portions of the Amateur Radio regulatory landscape and ordered minor changes in Part 97. The NPRM is a result of a dozen petitions for rule making, some filed more than a year ago and a few dating back as far as 2001. Comments on the proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140 are due by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/>. "Because the ARRL petition addresses the operating privileges of all classes of licensees on these Amateur Service bands, we believe that the ARRL petition provides a basis for a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges," the FCC said in its NPRM. "We note that, as proposed, no licensees would lose any spectrum privileges and that General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class licensees would gain spectrum for phone emissions, one of the most popular operating modes on the HF bands." The ARRL referenced its Novice refarming proposal in its recent

Petition for Rule Making, RM-10867 http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_docu , which, along with three other petitions (see "FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans," <http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2004/03/24/2/>) remains open for comment until April 23. The FCC also has proposed essentially eliminating its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. Originally put on the books in 1978 to keep high-powered amateur amplifiers out of the hands of CBers, the rules now "impose unnecessary restrictions on manufacturers of Amateur Radio equipment and are inconsistent with the experimental nature of the Amateur Service," the FCC said. The FCC additionally proposed a rule change that would make Kenwood's Sky Command system legal for operation within the US. The proposed amendment to §97.201(b) of the rules would permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz--with the exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz--in addition to frequency segments already authorized. The Sky Command system permits the user to operate certain Kenwood equipment remotely via a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver. In response to an ARRL petition, the FCC proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum experimentation and use to include 222-225 MHz. On its own initiative, it also recommended including 6 and 2 meters as well. Current rules limit SS emissions to frequencies above 420 MHz. Among other changes, the FCC also proposed to prohibit acceptance of more than one application per applicant per vanity call sign; permit retransmission of communications between a manned spacecraft and its associated Earth stations, including the International Space Station; allow current amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam; eliminate §97.509(a) of the rules, which requires a public announcement of volunteer examiner test locations and times; and add to §97.505(a) to provide Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991, and who can document having passed a telegraphy examination element. The Commission ordered some changes in Part 97 without

requesting comment. It ordered, among others, the revision of the definition of an "amateur operator" in §97.3(a)(1) to reflect that entry in the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), not a license document, determines whether a person is an Amateur Radio operator. The FCC also adopted a technical change--in line with a recent amendment to the international Radio Regulations--to specify that the mean power of any spurious emission from a new amateur station transmitter or amplifier operating below 30 MHz be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission, 3 dB greater than the current requirement. The FCC turned down a petition would have established distinct CW and phone segments in the 160-meter band. Although a majority of commenters supported the proposal, the Commission said the current voluntary band plan "adequately accommodates the operating interests of all licensees who use the 160-meter band because it was based on input from those who use this spectrum." Among several others, the FCC turned down petitions that would have imposed restrictions on the time, length or transmission frequencies of bulletins or informational transmissions directed at the amateur community. Also denied was an ARRL request to add to the special event call sign system certain call sign blocks that designate territories and possessions that have no specified mailing addresses. The FCC suggested using self-assigned indicators instead.

Volunteers Needed for Bike Race

As many of you know, the ECARC has volunteered to provide communications for the Tour d'Italia bike race Saturday, June 19th. The race begins in Italy at 8:00am and should be over no later than 2:30pm. We need a minimum of seven volunteers who can commit to this event by May 20th. The volunteers will be stationed individually at each of the 5 rest stops, at least one to ride mobile with the SAG, and a net control at the start/finish line. These numbers are bare minimum requirements, and additional volunteers would ease the work load on everyone. If you have never participated in a public service event, check out the information at this link

<http://home.comcast.net/~jrgalvin2/comminfo.html>. The equipment requirements for volunteers are:

1. 70cm operation
2. at least 35w power output
3. 1 volunteer with portable mast/antenna for rest stop #4

If you would like to participate but do not have the necessary equipment, please volunteer anyway. We will do everything we can to get you some temporary equipment for the event.

There will be a free spaghetti dinner the Friday night before the race provided by the race sponsors and free T-shirts to all volunteers.

We have had several people give oral commitments over the past few months. I would like to ask that you confirm your commitment so we can get a definite head count. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity to sharpen your communication skills and provide a public service to your community, please contact me at kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net or Robert at crosby@uta.edu.

Oklahoma hams respond to severe weather emergency

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

ARRL Oklahoma Section Manager John Thomason, WB5SYT, reports that Amateur Radio Emergency Service teams responded after tornados, severe thunderstorms and hailstorms struck the state April 20 and 21. "Several ARES groups assisted in severe weather spotting, radar analysis, city shelter management and damage assessment," Thomason told ARRL. "Severe thunderstorms with large hail, heavy rain and tornadoes struck Oklahoma for the second day consecutive day. A tornado warning lasted for almost an hour. Hail the size of baseballs punished people and vehicles." Thomason said hail accumulation on roadways made travel difficult, and the National Weather Service at one point had most of the state's 77 counties under a tornado watch. As of mid-week, several hundred residents remained without power. The ARRL-affiliated Southern Oklahoma ARES club in Ardmore provided numerous weather spotters and radar interpreters to assist public service

agencies. The Ardmore Amateur Radio group's activity, including a picture of Matt Jones, W5FLW, were reported in the April 22 edition of The Daily Ardmoreite http://www.ardmoreite.com/stories/042204/loc_okstorms.shtml. Thomason said the Edmond Amateur Radio Society--an ARRL Special Service Club--provided spotters and shelters monitors in that community. "Other ARES groups throughout Oklahoma provided similar support to city and county emergency service entities," Thomason said.

Monthly QSO Breakfast

Several club members have expressed the desire to have monthly breakfast gatherings for informal face to face QSO's. These gatherings are open to everyone and their families and will be held on the morning of the second Saturday of each month at Cancun's in Waxahachie at 8:00am. I look forward to seeing you there for a bite of breakfast, a cup of coffee, and some good conversation. Don't make me eat alone!

Thanks
Richard KD5NFW

Monthly 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. 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 Shaheen 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 KD5ZCP kd5zcp@aol.com](mailto:kd5zcp@aol.com) or 469 348-6817

Member Profile of the Month: Bill Martz WB5RFM

By Cathy Schack



Bill Martz was born on October 19, 1925 in Baltimore, Maryland. When he was seven years old, his dad took him to see a man named Red De Angelo, who built radios. Bill was so excited when he heard Red's radio that Red gave him a book and a bag of radio parts and instructed him to look at the book and match the parts together. That was Bill's introduction to ham radio and the beginning of a lifelong passion.

At age 12, Bill read an article in a magazine about how to communicate using the broadcast radio waves. Bill and a neighbor friend rigged up wires between their houses so that they could talk over the radio. Unfortunately other neighbors also picked up the signals on their radios and complained to their parents, so they were forced to abandon the project.

For many years, Bill worked as a plant manager at several different factories in the Dallas area. One day when he was 59 years old, a fellow worker had a heart attack on the job and died on the spot. This set Bill to thinking about all the things he was interested in that he had never done, and his long-time

interest in ham radio came to the forefront.

That very day, he went to Radio Shack and bought a book about how to build and operate a radio. In 1975, he joined the then fledgling Ellis County Amateur Radio Club that met in a building across from the Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie. He became a novice in January of 1976 and built his first radio: A Heathkit HW-101. He has been a

Charter member of the club ever since, and he now holds an extra-class license.

In addition to his passion for radios, Bill is a train enthusiast. He works part-time as a historian / spokesman at the Ennis Railroad Museum. The museum houses many fascinating artifacts and photographs and even has a locomotive.

Bill and his wife have lived in Ennis since 1969. They have five children, thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



