

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

April 2005
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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 storm season. This is for some of us the most exiting time of the year. With all the travel I've been doing, I've been seeing many of these systems from out here in the western part of the country before you do. I hear about them days later from my wife when I call home. We have a lot of things going on this month and will need to be at our best to get them all done. One thing that will need attention soon is the nominating committee. I'll be looking for persons to fill this. The thing to remember about this task is that if you are on the committee there's a lesser chance of being railroaded into office this year. If you would like to be considered for one of these spots, please let me know. With the growth in the club this year we should be able to open a few more positions, or to put it another way, to let some folks who are doing two or three jobs fall back to one.

I am excited about the momentum we have going and hope to carry it right through the summer. We are looking at several events as well as training exercises. All these things help to get our name out in the community. Field day should be one of the best yet. Thanks to the planning committee, we are getting a real head start on the particulars of running a good field day operation this year. For those of you who are not involved with this, there is a lot more work than it looks like. I would like to remind everyone that planning meetings are open events and everyone is welcome. Please try to attend. In regard to attendance I would like to thank all of you for the good club meeting numbers we have had lately.

Remember to get on the air and have fun!

Mark Frankie KA5TBK

April Club Meeting Notes

By Richard Bird KD5NFW

The April club meeting was held Thursday the 21st with 21 members present. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes from the March meeting and they were approved by the members. A repeater report was given by KD5NFW. As of the time of the meeting, the Midland repeater had yet to be repaired. Robert Crosby KD5YHY gave a report from the Education Committee. Please see his article later in this newsletter for details. Bill Cleaver KD5PMB still has a few club shirts and caps. If you are interested in one please contact him. Ken Isom KD5AIA gave a great presentation on Ennis' new Com-Van. This is the van will be operating from at the Polka Fest. More details on this will be presented at the May club meeting. Jon Hykel KM5PZ gave a report from the Planning Committee. Please see his article later in this newsletter for more details. The bylaws presented to the club officers at the March meeting and subsequently presented to all members through the newsletter or the club's website were discussed and passed by an overwhelming majority. Ellis County spotter map CD's were made available to members with slow dial-up connections or no internet access. The club approved \$80 to reserve the pavilion at Lake Bardwell for Field Day operations. Bill Martz WB5RFM made a request on behalf of the Golden Circle, a sight impaired support group in Ennis, for old computers. If you have an old computer, working or not, you would like to donate please contact Bill. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Roy Jones W5RJ volunteered to create name badges for club members at no charge. If you are interested please contact him. Roy will also be making a F.I.S.T.S. presentation at the May meeting. The next club meeting will be Thursday, May 19, 7:30pm at the Waxahachie Main Fire Station Training Room 407 Water St. Please make every effort to attend this meeting and join in on the fun! I look forward to seeing you there.

R.A.C.E.S.

By Bob Fitch K5ASU

The weather net on 25 Apr 05 was a good net. We provided the information to the National Weather Service that enabled them to know what was going on in Ellis County during the storms. This is not to say we were perfect. We made mistakes and I made as many as net control station as the stations in the field. In reviewing the net and thinking back after the storms had passed I found the following items we need to correct:

- a. Stations in some cases were calling other stations without the permission of the net control.
- b. Winds of reportable speeds were reported to net control without giving the direction of the wind.
- c. "Break, break" was used to report the presence of pea size hail.
- d. While stations were reporting wall clouds, funnel clouds and power flashes, some stations were reporting conditions well below minimum.
- e. Some stations closed their station without requesting permission from the net control.
- f. Reportable events were reported without indicating the location and/or details.
- g. Some "Severe Clear" reports were received.

Each RACES member needs to study the items above and resolve to prevent these errors in future nets. Be very accurate in your reporting of events. When we tend to embellish our report with more than what we are observing then we give the National Weather Service false information, which they may use in making their weather alerts. When we give embellished reports we become useless to the National Weather Service and will soon be disregarded. I want to thank the members for the excellent turnout for the net on 25 Apr 05. Thirty-One Members checked in and provided excellent coverage of the County.

Coming up on 28-29 May 05 is the Polka Festival in Ennis, TX which we will be supporting. It is going to be necessary for us to provide very professional

service to the Public, Ennis Police Dept and Ennis Fire Dept in this event. Each member serving on this weekend in the communication van as operators must be very professional in their service to the public and maintain the van in top notch condition. Smoking will not be permitted in the van. I desire that each person serving in the van and on the streets be clothed with club shirts with the club logo on them. This will make the public aware of the existence of the radio club and the RACES operation in Ellis County.

Bob Fitch – K5ASU
RACES Radio Officer.

Treasurer's Note

From Your Treasurer,
Please don't forget that your Dues need to be paid by June 2005, so get them in early. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Kenny Hickey
KD5VQN

Texas Youngsters Log 170th ARISS School Group QSO

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

A group of elementary schoolers in Denton, Texas, used ham radio to quiz International Space Station Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, about life in space March 29. The direct VHF contact between W5NGU at the Science Discovery Center at Pecan Creek Elementary School and NA1SS was arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. It marked the 170th ARISS school group contact since the first crew came aboard the ISS in 2000. Chiao told the pupils he believes the development of human space travel will parallel the earlier development of air travel. "In the beginning of the airplane, there were only a few people that got to fly in them, and now we've got air travel, it's pretty commonplace for everyone," Chiao replied. "The same thing's going to happen with space. It's just taking a little

bit longer because it's a little harder and a little more challenging to get up into space." Noting ventures under way to privatize space travel, Chiao said he thinks that's the direction human space flight will take in the future. Among other things, Chiao also told the kids that education is very important to becoming an astronaut. Most members of the NASA Astronaut Corps, he said, have advanced degrees, and training in various aspects of technology is ongoing. "We're always kind of in school," he remarked. One youngster wanted to know if the ISS crew members log all the new things they see or learn during their duty tours for later study. Chiao said that some astronauts keep journals as part of one of the science experiments aboard the ISS. "I've been keeping a journal that I put in my thoughts maybe two or three times a week, depending on how much time I have, and those will be used later to study different social aspects of being on board a space station for so long," he said. Chiao and his Expedition 10 crewmate, cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov of Russia, have been aboard the ISS since last October. They're due to return to Earth later this month. In all, the Pecan Creek students put 15 questions to Chiao before the ISS went out of range. At one point during the contact, Chiao looked out the window and observed that the spacecraft was passing directly over the Dallas area. He commented that looking at Earth and taking photographs was a favorite spare-time activity aboard the ISS. Amateur satellite veteran Keith Pugh, W5IU, served as mentor for the ARISS contact. Members of the Denton County Amateur Radio Club, W5NGU, set up the ground station equipment and handled control operator duties. They also arranged for other schools to view the contact live via amateur TV. About 50 parents and guests along with members of the school faculty joined some 300 of the participating pupils' schoolmates to witness the contact. The Science Development Center contact got media coverage from two TV stations and two newspapers. ARISS <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/> is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Education Committee Report

Hello to all of you, If you have been checking into the Information Net, which is held the second Thursday of the month, then you will already know what I am about to write. 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. I am asking anyone who wishes to help to please call KD5PMB Bill or myself to volunteer his or her expertise in this matter. In July we are proposing another Technician class. W5RJ Roy has volunteered to help teach a segment which will consist of an introduction to CW. The location and exact date are still to be formalized in the near future with a meeting of everyone who is interested in helping out to assist anyone wishing to become a licensed amateur radio operator. If you feel a calling to this project please contact one of us soon. Thank you for your energy and knowledge that you bring to this important task at hand. We need you.

73,
Robert KD5YHY

Planning Committee Report

By Jon Hykel KM5PZ

Ok we have two main things to talk about from the Planning Committee this month. Those two things are The Polka Festival and Field Day. First off, on Saturday May 28th, The City of Ennis has requested the help of Ellis County RACES with storm spotting and communication support for the 39th annual National Polka Festival. The Polka Fest is a large outdoor event drawing 25,000 people to the downtown Ennis area. We will be running the entire operation from the corner of W Ennis Ave, and McKinney St. We will be posted in the new Ennis FD Com-Van. This is going to give us a great opportunity and some very good exposure to the public and city officials. A complete overview of operations will be presented at the next club meeting. We will also have a float in the very large parade that takes place at this event. Field Day 2005 will be bigger

and better. Location will be at the Family Pavilion, Mott Park at Lake Bardwell (site of the Texas QSO Party). There will be several changes for this years Field Day. The main change is this years Field Day will count as credit toward the required 1 public service event for Ellis County RACES requiring a minimum of 2 hours operating or logging. We will have 2 main HF stations set up running the entire duration of Field Day on all participating HF Bands.

A GOTA (GET ON THE AIR) Station will be set up also. The GOTA Station is supervised by a licensed ham to give non-amateurs a chance to Get on the Air. Having a GOTA Station will also give us more points for Field Day. This years ECARC Field Day Dinner will be a fish fry with all the fixings at 6:30pm on Saturday. A small donation of around \$5 a person will be needed to cover the cost of the food. All members and their family and friends are encouraged to attend. If you know you are going to come to the dinner please let us know so we can get a head count.

Hot Dogs and cold drinks will be served to all participating members for lunch on Saturday. A sign up sheet will be going around to reserve your time for operation. We hope to see all available club members pitch a hand in this year. A presentation and overview of field day operations will be at the club meeting before Field Day.

Make plans to come out to the lake, have fun and support your club. Friends and Family are welcome.

Richard's Rants

Aka Bird Droppings

We are full bore into the spring season now and activities are increasing. Just a few weeks ago several ECARC members assisted the DARC with the Lancaster Bike Rally. Everyone involved had a great time as well as a good learning experience. The ECARC and Ellis County RACES have a number of events coming up on the calendar. We will need full participation from the club and RACES to fully realize our goals. We need at least six volunteers to assist with a RACES project on Saturday, May 14. At this time we only have four committed. Next on the calendar is the Polka Fest in Ennis. As you may or may not know, Ellis County RACES has been requested to provide SKYWARN monitoring and back-up communications for this event.

We will be operating net control station from the Ennis Fire Department's new Com-Van. This is a great opportunity for ALL RACES members to get familiar with this van. It is an even greater opportunity for us to get positive public exposure. We will be manning the van with two operators at a time for 2 ½ hour shifts. Most of the schedule for Saturday has been booked. We still need four operators for Sunday from 11:30 – 16:00 in two separate shifts. Please contact me to fill these positions. If weather conditions warrant, we will also need dedicated radar monitors to keep an eye on the weather for us. All operators are requested to wear official club attire and to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. We will be under scrutiny not only from the general public but also from city officials. Members are encouraged before and after their Com-Van shifts to walk around the event grounds to increase our exposure. More details will be provided at the May club meeting. Next on the calendar will be the Tour d' Italia on Saturday, June 18. We had a very successful event last year and we are looking to expand our assistance to this event this year. More details will be available by the May meeting, but go ahead and mark this date down on your calendar. If you would like to volunteer please contact me. The last event I would like to mention this month is Field Day Saturday and Sunday June 25 – 26. Our goal this year is to have at least 2 transmitters continually on the air for the entire 24 hour contest period. The only way to achieve this is to have a sign-up sheet for operating times. At this time we have 5 operators who have signed up. There are over 40 members in this club. It should not be difficult to fill 24 hours of operation. Please contact me to reserve your operating time. This club is growing and becoming very active. It will require active participation to meet its goals. The club is you!

73,
Richard KD5NFW



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

The topic for this month's RACES Training Net will be an assessment of the April 25 Skywarn Net.

May Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 May	2	3	4	5 7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410	6	7
8	9	10	11 7:00p Planning Committee Meeting at Don Chano's in Midlothian	12 7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410	13	14 8:00a QSO Breakfast at Cancun's VE Test
15	16	17	18	19 7:30p ECARC Club Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Polka Fest Skywarn Monitoring, Ennis
29 Polka Fest Skywarn Monitoring, Ennis	30	31	1 Jun	2 7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410	3	4

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](#) or 469 348-6817