

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

November 2003
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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



Once again the cool weather has finally arrived! The lower bands will be working better with less interference from thunderstorms. Of course with the severe weather taking a bit of a

break, we can turn our attention to other things. There is a tour of the national weather service in Fort Worth on Saturday. By the time you read this it may be history. Speaking of history we sponsored our first blood drive. It took place in the parking lot at Tractor Supply. While the obvious goal was to raise awareness for the club, it turned out to be a very nice social event as well. We kept the "blood mobile" busy all morning and still had time to visit among ourselves. As with any activity of this type it gives us time to become better acquainted with our fellow Hams. This adds to the enjoyment of our hobby. It's a great time for newer Hams to get questions answered and sometimes get problems solved. It's always interesting to hear the different answers to a given question or problem. They vary according to experience and knowledge. With the Ellis County ARC it's a pretty safe bet that you will come away with a workable solution or be directed to someone who can help.

Also on the horizon is the Christmas party. Look for notices elsewhere in the newsletter for the time and place. We are always looking for ways to get the group together so if you have any ideas, don't be bashful.

Our thanks go to Robert for attending the seminar on the acquisition of government funding for things like radios, repeaters, and other related items. I'm sure we can improve on our system performance. We are looking at what it will take to move forward on our repeater. We hope to see some action on it this month. The end result should be better sensitivity on receive which will give us better range with less power. There seems to be a direct connection between repeater performance and club membership. Once again we would like to hear from you if you have thoughts or ideas. Thanks to all who have been attending club meetings, RACES nets, and special events like

the blood drive. Without your participation the club would not work. With your help we will continue to promote Ham Radio, provide emergency communication, and have a great time to boot!

See you on the air,
Mark Frankie
KA5TBK

Dwayne's Corner



Hello everyone. I missed the last club meeting so I am not sure if the club has discussed a Christmas dinner. It is just around the corner and should be talked about and a place set to have the dinner. Does anyone have any ideas for a Christmas dinner, place they would like to have dinner, activities during the dinner, date and time for the dinner? Everyone should bring their ideas to the next club meeting and get it planned during the November meeting, and let's see how many folks are going to make it this year.

Lets go ahead and plan on bringing a wrapped gift this year with a \$5.00 maximum spent on the gift and do a little swapping with the gifts! Keep in mind that there will be XYL's there also swapping with the gifts. If you and the wife are going to be there then you will need to bring 2 gifts and so on, so that everyone will leave with a gift. I hope to see everyone at the next club meeting with some ideas for the dinner. I also hope that everyone can make it to the Christmas Dinner this year so we can have a huge dinner and lots of fun!

TNX, Dwayne KD5HWP
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Ellis County ARC Blood Drive a Success

by Richard Bird KD5NFW



Ellis County ARC sponsored its first blood drive this past October 18th. The event was fairly successful given the fact that it was our first one. Several of the volunteers met at Cancun's at 6:30 that Saturday morning for a good breakfast and even better conversation. After breakfast we headed to the parking lot of Tractor Supply to reserve an area for the "Blood Mobile" and set up our information tables. The bus arrived around 8:30 and was set up for business by 9:00. We had a total of 18 victims processed through the bus with about 11 or 12 viable donations. With 3 lives potentially saved from every donation, the ECARC was responsible for saving between 33-36 lives in a matter of 4 hours! Not a bad investment of our time and resources.

I would like to thank everyone that helped make this a successful event. Robert Crosby, KD5YHY, and his wife, Cathy, for the use of their travel trailer and time. Bob Fitch, K5ASU, for his mobile HF station. Bob made several contacts on HF during the event, including a couple to Boy Scouts who were having their JOTA that weekend. Kenny Hickey, KD5VQN, and son Travis for the mobile emergency communication station complete with flashing lights. Wendell Carrington, N5WC, for attracting more attention to his new motorcycle than the Blood Mobile or Kenny's flashing lights! Mark Frankie, KA5TBK, Tommy Vinson, KA5RDC, and Charles Blair, WX5B, for keeping us all in line. Danny Woodruff, KA5RDB, for his ability to get a newspaper reporter on scene in the matter of 10 minutes! And finally a big thanks goes out to everyone who either donated or tried to donate!

Stay Connected to Amateur Radio News

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Ham radio news is as close as your cell phone: With many major cellular telephone calling plans largely eliminating roaming charges and offering "free nights and weekends," ARRL Audio News dial-up Amateur Radio news service now is more available than ever. Using your cell phone, you can keep up with Amateur Radio news even if you're someplace where you don't have Internet or e-mail access. Amateur Radio news is as close as your cell phone! Have a few minutes while you're waiting for the train, bus, car-pool or connecting flight? Just call 860-594-0384 to stay informed. ARRL Audio News remains available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>.

Ellis County ARC Tours NWS Facilities

by Richard Bird KD5NFW



The Ellis County ARC was treated to a tour of the National Weather Service facilities in Ft. Worth this past November 1st. We had twelve people take advantage of this opportunity to gain insight into the functions of the NWS and how our spotter reports are integrated into their operations. Once again several of the attendees met around 08:00 for the all important breakfast and stimulating conversation. OK maybe it was the coffee that was stimulating. Around 09:00 the caravan headed out. We utilized one of our emergency simplex frequencies for communication during the drive just in case we had a straggler lose their way. We were met at the NWS office by Gary Woodall, Warning Coordination

Meteorologist. Most of you probably recognize Gary from the excellent Skywarn training classes he presents every year. Gary gave us a brief 10 minute lecture on their operations, capabilities, and responsibilities. Then the good part of the tour began. We were taken into the "war room" where the action happens. The area is basically divided into 3 areas of responsibility. One area is for the routine 7- day forecast. One area is for the short-term forecasts, which translates into what's happening right now or will be happening soon. The last area was for hazardous or severe weather. The speed that they can generate a warning to the NOAA radios and to the media is astounding. A warning can be issued within 45-60 seconds after the decision is made. That's a far cry from the 4-6 minutes it took just a few years ago. We were also shown the onsite instruments used for gathering data, as well as the weather balloons and instrument packs that are launched twice daily. Gary finished up the tour by taking us back to the meeting room and having a Q & A session. Overall duration of the tour was about 1 hour. Just as a side note, Gary Woodall is now KD5WUT. Gary received his Technician class license May 29th of this year!

It's that time of year again to make plans for Skywarn 2004. We as a club need to locate a site as soon as possible so we will have a better range of dates to reserve for Ellis County.

Ham Operators Hit the Small Screen

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Ham radio operators get TV time in South Dakota: Ham radio operators in South Dakota will be featured during an upcoming segment of the Public Television program "Dakota Life." The show will highlight how local hams have contributed during emergencies. It will air November 6, 8 PM Central/7 PM Mountain Time. Reruns are scheduled for November 9, 1 PM Central/ noon Mountain Time and November 25, 9:30 Central/8:30 Mountain Time. Visit the South Dakota Public Broadcasting Web site for more information <http://www.sdpb.org>.

R.A.C.E.S. Background

submitted by Bob Fitch K5ASU

- a. RACES is an organization of amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide radio communications for State and local governments in times of emergency. Created in 1952 primarily to serve in civil defense emergencies, RACES provides essential communications and warning links to supplement State and local government assets during emergencies.
- b. RACES is a special part of the amateur operation sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). RACES provides emergency communications for civil preparedness purposes only. RACES is conducted by amateurs using their primary station licenses or by existing RACES stations. In the event that the President invokes the War Emergency powers, amateurs officially enrolled in the local civil preparedness group would become limited to certain frequencies, while all other amateur operations would be silenced

DEFINITIONS

- a. **RACES** is a radio communications service, conducted by volunteer licensed amateur radio operators, for providing emergency communications support to State and local governments.
- b. **RACES Station** is an amateur radio station licensed civil defense organization, at a specific land location, to provide the facilities for amateur radio communications in the RACES.
- c. **Amateur Radio Communications** is noncommercial radio communications by or among amateur radio stations solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary or business

THE ROLE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- a. **Local Governments.** The role of local governments is to establish and train a RACES organization designed to provide or supplement essential emergency communications within their local jurisdiction.
- b. **State Governments.** The role of State governments is to establish and train a RACES organization designed to provide or supplement emergency communications between elements of State Government and between State and local governments.

FEMA's Role.

FEMA's role is to provide planning guidance, technical assistance, and funding for establishing a RACES organization at the State and local government level.

Emergency Situations.

The RACES organization provides or supplements communications during emergencies where normal communication systems have sustained damage. It may be used in a wide variety of situations, including:

- a. Natural Disasters;
- b. Technological Disasters;
- c. Nuclear Accidents;
- d. Nuclear Attack;
- e. Terrorist Incidents; and
- f. Bomb Threats.

This information was extracted from the Civil Preparedness Guide published by FEMA. It gives a very brief background on the RACES programs. If you wish to see this guide go to <http://www.fema.gov/library/civilpg.shtm#1> and it contains the complete document on RACES.

November Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Oct	27	28	29	30	31	1 Nov
						10:00a NWS Tour
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				7:30p ECARC Club Meeting		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1 Dec	2	3	4	5	
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		

Boat Anchors of the Month

For Sale: Several Gamber Johnson computer mounts with vehicle base. Make offer. Contact [Danny Woodruff KA5RDB](#)

For Sale: 2 Meter Beams Cushcraft 26B2 Vertical stacked beams. This is two 13 element beams stacked. They were bought brand new in September of 2002, and are assembled and ready to go. This set up sells for \$399.95 new. I am asking \$350.00
Contact : Dwayne (KD5HWP) e-mail kd5hwp@ectisp.net or Scott (KD5RON) at (cell phone) 903-879-3910