

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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E.C.A.R.C. Officers

President

Mark Frankie

KA5TBK

markfrankie@aol.com

Vice-President

Richard Bird

KD5NFW

kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Ray Calhoun

W5ZGZ

Treasurer

Danny Woodruff

KA5RDB

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



After being out of town more than in town this month, it was good to return home in time to work the BFG Library run/walk last Saturday. The event was very easy to work, yet we were still able to get

good public exposure for the club. We made a favorable impression on the sponsors of the event and at the same time got another mention in the local paper. We will be invited back again next year. As usual there were questions about our club and our hobby. It never fails to amaze me to see how many people are totally unaware of amateur radio. It's at these times while trying to explain what we do that I realize how broad and diverse our hobby is. It seems to begin with questions like "how far will that radio talk", and ends with "how can I learn more". While working these events for the good of the community is some of the best advertising we can get, the real benefit is the fun we all have providing communication for others. If you have not participated in one of our club activities you are really missing out. I am really proud of the job our club is doing. We have done more in the last few months than we have in several years, but we have only scratched the surface.

I would like to continue to encourage you to explore different modes of operation.

Sometimes we get focused on one aspect of the hobby and forget about every thing else. I talked to Richard (KD5NFW) about working the HF bands. His excitement was contagious. It seems he has rediscovered HF again. I think he said he worked 45 countries this weekend. That's the nature of Ham radio. There are so many areas to explore that when we make it back around the second time we forget how much fun it was. We will soon begin a CW class in one form or another. We hope to have activities for beginners as well as those who have been out of it for a while. We may be able to have some over the air exercises as well. With so much to choose from there should be something to jump in and try.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for all the work that has gone on this month. With all the

club events such as camping trips, ham radio classes, event stations, and public service, there have been many hours of work. There are corresponding hours of fun and accomplishment. This is what makes our club work. It will only get better from here.

If you have ideas we look forward to hearing them. We look forward to seeing you at the club meeting or hearing from you on the air.

Thanks again for all your help,

Mark Frankie KA5TBK

October Club Meeting Notes

By Richard Bird KD5NFW

The October club meeting was held Thursday, October 21 with 17 members and 2 visitors in attendance. In the absence of President Mark Frankie KA5TBK, the meeting was called to semi-order by Vice-President Richard Bird KD5NFW. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes of the September meeting and the members voted to accept them. Bill Cleaver KD5PMB gave a report on the Education Committee and presented Treasurer Danny Woodruff KA5RDB with an account statement in the amount of \$49.70 to be earmarked for the Education Committee. Jon Hykel KM5PZ gave a report on the Planning Committee and its activities. This included planning for an antenna raising party for Terry Dowd KE5APL, the club participation in the bike/run/walk benefit for the Red Oak Library, ideas on this year's Christmas Dinner, a Member of the Year Award, and an Old Timer's Night sometime early next year. Jon also reminded everyone that the presentation at the November meeting will be on the National Traffic System (NTS) and will be given by James Shultz W5OMG. This should be a very informative presentation and all RACES members and anyone else interested in emergency communications should plan to attend. The repeater controller is programmed for basic operation and should be installed on the repeater in the very near future. Danny reported that there still were no definite plans for the November emergency exercise with the Ellis County hospitals. Skywarn 2005 is in the process of

being scheduled. Dates and location will be passed on as soon as they are finalized. Tommy Vinson KA5RDC and Bob Fitch K5ASU donated contributions to the club's general fund to help with expenses for our upcoming membership drive. Last but not least, Jon gave a presentation on contesting and DX. I'm sure much of the information was old hat to the more experienced members, but those of us newer to amateur radio, HF, and contesting found the topic and information very interesting and helpful. I used his presentation as motivation to participate in the WWCCQ contest held last weekend and made contact with 48 different countries and made about 150 contacts. This was accomplished with a ground mounted vertical antenna and 100W! I had a great time. The next club meeting will be Thursday, November 18th, 7:30pm at the Central Fire Station Training Room on Water St. in Waxahachie. The ECARC is busy and active in many different activities and projects. Come on out to the next meeting and see what you can get in to. I look forward to seeing you there!

73,
Richard

"It Seems to Us . . ." Radio Activity

By David Sumner, K1ZZ
ARRL Chief Executive Officer
Reprinted from QST November 04

Every few years the ARRL commissions a mail survey of licensed radio amateurs to get a snapshot of who we are, what we're doing in Amateur Radio, and what we think of the ARRL. The most recent survey was conducted in September and October 2003, and the results were reported to the ARRL Board at its January 2004 meeting. The minutes of the meeting reported the highlights: Compared to the results of a similar survey conducted in 1992, the new survey showed increasing age and declining activity in the amateur population, with inactive respondents most often citing competition for time and the use of other communications media as reasons for their inactivity. More frequently than long-time licensees, newer licensees cited emergency communications and personal safety as reasons for obtaining their license. ARRL

members were far more likely to be active than non-members. Respondents identified the protection of Amateur Radio and defense of frequencies as the most valuable ARRL service.

If you spend time listening to the bands, probably you have come to a similar conclusion with regard to declining activity. The bands *are* quieter than they were a few years ago. Why is this? The survey summary cites time pressures and competing media (most likely cell phones and the Internet), but there are other factors as well.

Probably because of time pressures, more of us take Amateur Radio in concentrated "doses." For example, between 1992 and 2003 the percentage of active survey respondents who listed ARRL Field Day among the activities they most enjoyed leapt from 22% to 30%. We also combine Amateur Radio with other activities; mobile and portable operating remains popular at 54%, with a significant increase in the number of HF mobile stations. Also reflective of the societal shift toward multitasking is the fact that "listening to ham bands," probably while also doing something else, has become the most popular Amateur Radio activity.

Competing communications media certainly have had an impact.

Autopatches are rare now that cell phones are practically ubiquitous. Electronic mail keeps people in touch who previously used HF, although e-mail also has a positive side: it makes it easier for groups with specific interests to share information and ideas and to keep one another motivated. Amateur Radio Voice over IP (VoIP) has shifted some routine long-distance contacts to VHF, sometimes off the air altogether. That's certainly understandable given the decline in sunspot activity and the resultant (albeit temporary) shrinking of the useful HF spectrum

Yet when there's a reason to get on the air, amateurs come out of the woodwork. Your local repeater may not carry as much drive-time chatter as it used to, but plenty of amateurs--especially more recent licensees--will answer a call to provide public service communications. Ratings services don't record the number of listeners to the Hurricane Watch Net, but during this season's bevy of killer storms it probably ranked well compared to lot of broadcast stations--the difference being that *our* listeners were ready to jump in as needed. All it takes

to generate a beehive of activity is for an interesting DX spot to appear.

Meaningful activity is not always a nose-counting exercise, and some is nearly invisible. For example, on September 19 W6QI and AD6FP completed a 47 GHz contact over a distance of 290 km to set a new world record for that band. Much as we may like to listen, there wasn't much opportunity to eaves-drop on their achievement! However, microwaving is not necessarily a solitary pursuit, nor is it necessarily invisible to the rest of hamdom. My wife Linda, KA1ZD, and I operate the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest as a team under her call sign. At one point during last year's contest we counted nine separate stations on top of Mount Wachusett in central Massachusetts! This year there was heavy rain on the Saturday of both weekends, but still a lot of fun and new experiences to be had. Coordination is done on

2-meter SSB, generating more activity on the low end of 2 meters here in New England than at any other time except during a band opening. My hope for next year's 10 GHz and Up Contest is that everyone who goes to a hilltop will bring along a friend to share the experience. Which brings us to our main point this month: Activity begets activity. Bell's invention of the telephone would have passed unnoticed had Watson not been at the other end of the line. If all we ever do is listen, we'll never know what we're missing because we won't know who *e/*se is just listening.

Even worse is to ignore callers because we don't know them or are "too busy" to reply. They will conclude either that no one is hearing them or, worse still, that they're being heard but ignored. Either way, their enthusiasm will flag and we'll be left to wonder why the bands are so quiet.

ECARC Planning Committee

By Jon Hykel KM5PZ

First off I want to say that the next meeting of the Planning Committee is Wednesday November 10th at 7pm. Location will be at Cancun's Restaurant in Waxahachie. Again, all are welcome to attend. The Planning Committee has proposed a Member of the Year award to the club. This award will be given out yearly at the ECARC Christmas dinner.

This award will be given to a member that has gone above and beyond the call in activities and dedication to the club. Members may submit nominations to Bill Cleaver KD5PMB at blctexas@aol.com. Nominations must be made by December 1st. This year's award is for the 2004 year. Speaking of the Christmas Dinner, make sure and attend the November meeting. We have several prospective places for the Christmas dinner and your input is needed. Along with the November meeting our presentation will be given by James Schultz W5OMG on the NTS (National Traffic System). ECARC has been very busy with activities here lately. We will be slacking off a bit with the hectic holiday season upon us. We have several ideas and activities that will pick back up after the new year. If anyone has any ideas or events they would like to see take place, please contact Jon Hykel KM5PZ km5pz@sbcglobal.net.

R.A.C.E.S.

By Danny Woodruff KA5RDB

A new training program is being started this next month with the addition of using the audio / visual equipment at the Waxahachie Fire Department. They have made available to us their VCR - DVD Player - Projector equipment. We will also have access to their training library. This library has some tapes and DVDs that are related to what we do and will make it a whole lot more interesting. Richard, KD5NFW wants to start off at the next club meeting with a training topic where we all will be able to see the tape - DVD, and discuss it at the next RACES Training Net. He is going to continue to publish a RACES Training Topic in the newsletter. In addition to the fire department training library, we will be able to use tapes and CDs from FEMA, NWS, and ARRL.

Our RACES Mission is to be able to provide back up communications for local governments, beginning with The City of Waxahachie in the event of an emergency. With that said, as we all know, there have not been any events which we could assist with. We continue to train and provide Weather Spotter Information to the National Weather Service during Severe Weather on a regular basis.

In the event of an emergency, and the City of Waxahachie has a need to open its Emergency Operations Center, we

have been asked to provide radio operators for some of the radio systems. Doing this, you all need to know what and how an Emergency Operations Center functions. What system do they use....."Incident Command System". This topic, Incident Command System, is one major topic you will be seeing tapes and CDs on in the near future to give you the basic understanding as to what and how things happen. You will be receiving and sending messages for various department heads and other members of the Incident Command System Staff (ICS).

Some members of this organization have participated in a similar exercise in the past. We went to the City of Italy to observe what was going on, only to be put to work operating their radios and passing traffic on their radio systems. The one thing the key players in the Italy ICS Team found out real quick was the acute need for additional communication links to the various agencies responding, radio equipment to talk to those agencies, and the manpower to man the radios. This is one reason why the list of additional amateur frequencies was added to the RACES Operating Plan.

I have continued to offer all the fire departments within Ellis County our services, and that we would like to be invited to there Table Top or Actual Exercise to observe the operations to get a feel for what they do. If called on, they will know us and we will know them.

DISASTER EXERCISE:

No firm plans have been made for the 15th of November by either hospital, Ennis Regional or Waxahachie Baylor, but they are talking about us. One hospital came out and took a tour of Waxahachie Fire Department and the Emergency Operations Center, looked at some of the equipment the fire department has on hand, made some notes, but didn't ask for anything. We are still talking to them and waiting to hear the final plans.

DISASTER PLANNING: Several months ago, the training topic was making up a "Go Box", what items you would need in the event you had to go out and be part of a communications link. When is the last time you checked your radios, handhelds, handheld batteries and antennas, personal items you might need. Checked the batteries in your flashlight????

WEATHER: Three things we need to keep in mind during severe weather:

Heed the Warning, Be Aware, and have a Safe Place to go to if needed.

ECARC Education Committee

By Robert Crosby KD5YHY

A review will be held on November 6th for all participants and then testing will be held on the following Saturday, November 6th of this month. I would like to thank each member of the committee, KD5PMB, KM5PZ, KD5ZCP, KE5APL and WB5GUG for making this a successful event. Thank you all for your expertise and help in this endeavor and to K5ASU for his opening remarks to the students during its first class. Captain Feeser of the Waxahachie Salvation Army has also made the class possible by allowing us to hold the classes there at his facility. A small reminder for all committee members to be present concerning the review at this coming Saturday's final session to help tutor our students on their course material. KA5TBK and KD5NFW will also be present at this Saturday's meeting to make a short presentation about the ECARC club along with an invitation to join.



"WB5GUG shows students how to set-up a station at the next to the last scheduled class for the Technician class license."

No news is . . . no news:

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

There have been no changes to the Amateur Radio Part 97 rules nor any news to report regarding FCC action on proposals that address the number of license classes, the 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to obtain a General or Extra license, or other

amateur licensing qualifications or privileges. The FCC continues to review the thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making—including a petition from the ARRL—that, in general, address various facets of license restructuring and the Morse code requirement. Prompting most of these petitions were actions taken during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). The FCC first must issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and assign it a docket number, then invite comments on what it decides to propose, based on the petitions it has before it. The ARRL estimates that the FCC is only about one-third of the way through its review of the petitions, however, and does not anticipate any final FCC action—in the form of a Report and Order—until sometime in 2006. The ARRL has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring initiative on its Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>.

November Club Member Profile: David Shaheen WB5GUG

David Shaheen WB5GUG was born in Puerto Rico in 1936. When he was growing up, his father had a cousin who was a pilot with the Flying Tigers and who later opened a flight school on St. Thomas Island. He taught David how to fly a plane, and he got his pilot's license at age sixteen. This was also his introduction to radio communications, as he had a CB radio in his plane.

Growing up on the waterfront, David had always been interested in boats and sailing. While still in his teens, he bought an old abandoned schooner for the cost of launching it (\$10.) He fixed it up himself and put in a diesel engine from a friend's old truck, and his mother sewed sails for it. He painted it black and red and christened it "Sea Urchin." David got his technician's licence around this time, so he could have radio communications aboard his boat. This was in the early 1960s during the Bay of Pigs invasion under President Kennedy.

The United States had made an agreement with the rebels which allowed them to stockpile weapons at Guantanamo. Because David's boat sat low in the water, it ran below radar level, so he was enlisted to run munitions from Miami to Guantanamo through Cuban waters. His only means of communication was a 6 meter radio. When the naval air support planes were called back by Kennedy, David intercepted the message on his 6 meter radio and was able to return to port and to safety.

For many years thereafter, David's interest in radios was dormant. He completed a degree in physics, and while working on his masters' degree, enrolled in an experimental project for three hours' credit. By so doing, he became part of the team that developed the UNIVAC computer system. David started an avionics and two-way radio communications business in Beeville, and he designed and built radios which transmitted data from offshore oil rigs to the oil company computers in Houston. He also did communications trouble-shooting and sometimes had to be ferried out to the rigs to deal with problems.

From 1970 through 1986 he worked with Boeing, the Department of Defense, and finally with Texas Instruments. After retiring from TI in 1986, he enrolled at UTA and took graduate courses leading to a teaching certificate. He taught science for several years in the Texas public schools.

In addition to his engineering background, David is an ordained priest in the Russian Orthodox church. He maintains a small mission in Palmer.

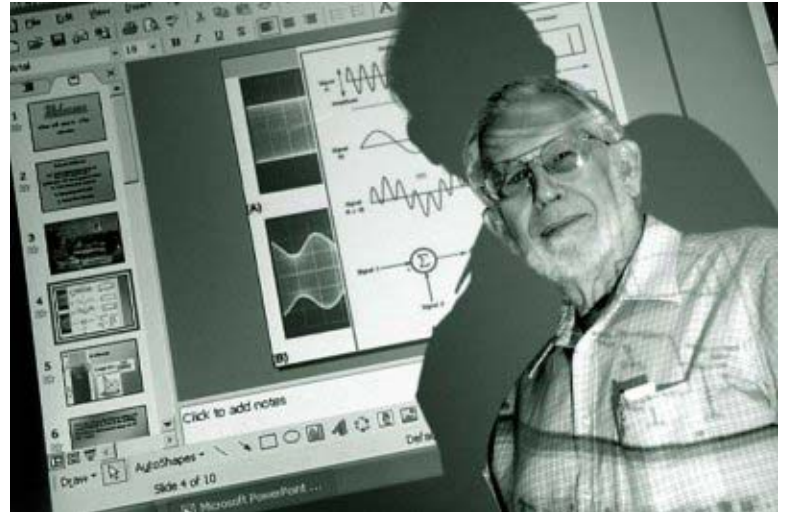
David has lived in Palmer for twenty-eight years. He has a wife and two children, a daughter age 18 and a son age 28.

Boat Anchors of the Month

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. 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

8 hard drives from 2 – 4 gigs. Various brands. \$5.00 each. Contact Richard Bird at kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net.



November Event Calendar

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