

Repeaters
2m: 145.410-
70cm: 441.650+(110.9pl)



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



I would like to start by thanking everyone for their patience in regard to the new repeater. It's been a long time coming. It looks like we have a lot better coverage than before. It will make a good spring

board for our efforts to get things fired up again after a long hot summer. The cooler weather is refreshing. I hope to get several antennas up again and get back on the air myself. We are poised for a new round of activity. I would like to encourage you to get on the air and stir up some action on the repeater. I will be doing the same. I look forward to having enough traffic on the repeater that who ever tosses his or her call sign out will get an answer. I will soon have an outdoor antenna up again and will be able to monitor again while I work. This type of repeater activity is contagious and will result in more interest in the club. The byproduct of this type of behavior is fun. While amateur radio is a service it can be a lot of fun. There needs to be a balance between the two. If we have too much or too little of either we are not as effective. Let's get out there and do what we do best. Communicate....serve the community....and have fun!

73

Mark Frankie
KA5TBK

October Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The October meeting of the ECARC was held Thursday, October 20 with eleven club members present. President Mark Frankie KA5TBK opened the meeting at 7:35pm. Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes from the September meeting and the members present accepted them as read. Brief reports were given from the Planning Committee meeting and the Repeater Committee. All members present had positive feedback regarding the new repeater and its operation. Discussion was held on putting a tone on the repeater in an effort to reduce

interference and potentially increase our range. At this time there has been no opposition to going forward with putting a tone of 110.9 on the repeater during the next "maintenance" day on the repeater. Club members will be notified in advance of when this change will take place. Rumor has it that the location of our repeater is scheduled for renovation, so we may be moving equipment sometime in the future and will require some volunteers to lend a hand. Roy Jones W5RJ has graciously volunteered his services to serve as the Club's Contact VE. Please see his article elsewhere in this newsletter for details. The ECARC Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 3, at the same location as last year. Final details will be available after this month's Planning Committee meeting. The Waxahachie Christmas Parade is the morning of the same Saturday, just like last year. Let's get together and put on a good show for 'Hachie this year.

The next club meeting will be November 17 at 7:30pm in the Training Room of the Fire Station at 407 Water St. in Waxahachie. Hope to see you there!

Planning Committee Report

On upcoming activities, we all know that December brings the Christmas Parade in Waxahachie, the Club Christmas Party, the award for Club Member of the Year, and Old Timer's Night following up in January. In November there is the ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest (the Grand Daddy of them all). It was discussed at the last Planning Committee Meeting on working this contest as a club. If anyone is interested in doing so please let me know. Club activities seem to fall off a bit in the fall months, I guess everyone could use a break. Even though the above items are going to take some work, it will not fill the schedule up. The fall months are a time to sit back, relax, enjoy the cool air, maybe work a little HF, fix the shack up, spend time with the family, or for us hunters and outdoorsman head into the field for the new season. At any rate enjoy !!! The Planning Committee will be meeting the second Wednesday of the month. For the month of November we will be meeting at El Rancho

Restaurant in Waxahachie. Please come out and let's put our heads together and brainstorm some new ideas and activities for the club.

73,
Jon Hykel KM5PZ

R.A.C.E.S.

We are coming into the winter season after a very active summer in which we have seen a record number of hurricanes and tropical storms. A lot of times we have a tendency to think that will translate into a very hard winter with a lot of extremes in cold weather and snow and ice. Weather records have never proved that, so we just have to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. Sometimes in the months of November thru February we have weather that makes us think it is spring storm season. One year we had a very bad tornado in the Lancaster area that destroyed property. On the other hand, we have had winter weather with the lowest temperature and worst weather in the month of December than in the rest of the winter season. So we can see our thoughts about weather and relating it to the severe season just past does not serve us well. Therefore, we have to prepare ourselves for all types of weather and adapt to the changes as they come. Winter finds us dealing with the loss of power the same as the storms in the summer. The only thing that changes is the reason for the loss of power. In the winter our problem is ice storms that tear down the power lines. Ice on the trees causes the limbs to break and down the power lines. Each of us needs to prepare for the loss of power by having an alternate power source to operate our radio equipment. This same source can also provide limited power for our homes to operate refrigerators, microwaves, lighting and some limited heat. In our emergency kits we need to review them and include clothing to provide additional warmth if we are forced to operate in extreme cold and wet conditions. In short, we need to rethink our emergency kits and be prepared for winter even if it turns out to be warmer than we expect. Take stock of your plans in case of the loss of power. Consider buying a small gasoline generator for use at your home if you can afford it. You might also consider having a battery for backup of your radio

at your home with a charger. This works very well and does not require you to operate the generator all the time to operate the radio equipment. The battery can be put on charge at intervals when the generator is running. I realize all this costs money and everyone can't do it but make the best plans you can considering your finances.

Thank You – Bob Fitch – K5ASU

Education Committee

Hello to all of you this month. I am still hoping that some of you will volunteer to help with a CW class and a Technician class. David WB5GUG and Roy W5RJ have said they will help with this endeavor. I think Roy will be the go to guy on CW. Roy has graciously offered his house in Venus for the location of the CW class. David has offered his help in teaching a Technician class. If there is anyone else willing to help please send me an email to kd5yhy@sbcglobal.net.

73,
KD5YHY

Treasurer's Report

WE HAD NO TRANSACTIONS THIS MONTH.
PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB.
DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

YOUR TREASURER KENNY HICKEY
KD5VQN@YAHOO.COM

Richard's Rants

aka Bird Droppings

Well you can't tell it by the temperatures lately, but the dog days of summer are behind us and the cool, pleasant temperatures of fall are here. With that should be a little better propagation for the HF enthusiast out there. This month will be the ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone Contest the weekend of the 19-20. Several club members have expressed an interest in working this contest as a club. If you are interested in working part, or all, of this contest with us, please contact myself or Jon km5pz@sbcglobal.net. We work these contests at a pretty leisurely pace,

but we all have fun and gain valuable experience at working the bands under less than optimum conditions. The results of our efforts from this year's Field Day are in and I am proud of the effort the club put forth. We had 28 participants and logged 596 QSO's for a total of 2,094 points. This was a significant increase over our 2004 efforts with 22 participants logging 315 QSO's for 1,130 points. Great job to everyone that played a role in this success. Now we need to set our goals for next year's Field Day. First and foremost is to have fun, and we can have lot's of fun shooting for 1,000 QSO's!!!

73,
Richard KD5NFW

New Club Contact VE

Well, I don't have much to report in that we don't have all our ducks in a row yet. We're still without credentials from "W5YI-VEC". I suspect the credentials will be arriving soon. The nucleus of the VE Team is taking shape as we have returning team members, but we could use more help. As soon as we receive the credentials from "W5YI-VEC" we will need to get everyone together and talk about the program. Any questions? Contact Roy Jones, W5RJ ECARC VE Coordinator w5rj@ectisp.net
h: 972 366-3088
m: 817 991-9626
73 Roy

Boat Anchors For Sale

For Sale: Mosely TA-36 six element Tri-band beam [details](#)
Contact: Martin, WA2IRK 469 682-2233

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

After 20 Years of Trying, a Dream Achieved



Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ is a man of many talents. After several decades as a technical writer, Ray is retired and now focuses on two of his passions: ham radio and cooking. Ray's ham shack is chock-full of radio equipment along with trophies and ribbons he has won for his chili and other recipes.

Ray recently achieved a dream. He won the coveted Chili Cook-off Award at the State Fair of Texas, placing first out of fifty-nine entries. This was only one of the fourteen ribbons that Ray won at the Fair this year. He also won for his recipe in the Casserole competition, for his Tex-Mex cuisine, his French entrée (a variation of Steak Diane), his vineyards recipe (which requires using Texas wine as an ingredient), his salsa recipe, and his recipe for pork loin. Several competitions are sponsored by food companies such as Rotel, Hidden Valley, and Spam, and the winners receive a cash prize in addition to a ribbon. Ray attempted the Spam contest this year, but was less than satisfied with his creation. He did note, however, that some of the other contestants came up with incredible uses for Spam, such as teriyaki-style meatballs.

Ray's interest in cooking began in 1980, when he came across a famous cookbook by Louis Diat called "The Gourmet's Basic French Cooking." Trying out and adapting the recipes and techniques in the book got Ray hooked on cooking. To further hone his culinary skills, Ray attended El Centro College, where he earned an Associates Degree in Food Service and Dietetics.

Ray has been entering contests for over 25 years, logging about forty contests annually. Most weekends he participates in a chili cook-off and he has been to the prestigious Terlingua contest many times. He blends his own chili spice mixture and has published a book of his favorite recipes. Ray and his wife Tinky enjoy the competition and camaraderie of the chili cook-off circuit. Despite his enjoyment of contest cooking, his wife fondly says that Ray seldom cooks at home.

As we were leaving at the conclusion of our interview, Ray handed me a copy of his cookbook and a jar of his aptly named "Grand Prize" chili spice mix. I am really looking forward to sampling some of his recipes.

KD5DIO Cathy

ECARC November Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Oct	31	1 Nov	2	3 7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410	4	5
6	7	8	9 7:00p Planning Committee Meeting at El Rancho in Waxa.	10 7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410	11	12 8:00a QSO Breakfast at Cancun's
13	14	15	16	17 7:30p ECARC Club Meeting	18	19 ARRL November Sweepstakes
20 ARRL November Sweepstakes	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 Dec	2	3 ECARC Christmas Party and Parade