

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



Almost everyone that does a column for the newsletter has to keep up with facts, figures, dates, and times. I, on the other hand, have the luxury of being able to write about any topic I choose.

With the news in this newsletter being handled by others, I would like to

turn your attention to other aspects of our hobby. If you talk to ten different Hams about how they got started in radio you will get ten unique stories. I've never met a Ham who said he was sorry he took the time and effort to earn his license. Most of us were enticed by the same fascination. Ham radio is such a broad and diverse hobby that most of us were intrigued by one small facet of the hobby, and then learned about the bigger picture. All it took for me was one simple demonstration. A twenty-year-old Collins S-line and an inverted v antenna enabled a conversation to Australia. Five minutes later I was overflowing with questions. Who else can I talk to? How much does it cost? How do I get a license? When can I get started...?

This was just the tip of the iceberg. I was given a book to study. Within the pages of that novice study guide the answers to my questions began to unfold. To my amazement this was more than a pastime or hobby. The more I learned about Ham radio and its rich history of innovation and technical achievement, the more I wanted to learn. The underlying ingredient to all of this is fun and excitement. Last week I attended the first of our classes and was able to see and even relive that magic that happens as students of Ham radio begin to realize that this is something they can achieve and enjoy. As they slog their way through the rules and regulations, the fun and excitement begins to outweigh the work. There is logic and reason behind all those rules, laws, knowledge, and responsibility that is required to be a good radio operator. In the end there is still the fun of operating.

This fun is different for each and every Ham operator. Some of us will bounce signals off the moon and back to the earth. Others will have conversations through satellites in space. Speaking of outer space, Ham radio is always on board the space shuttle and the International

Space Station. The fun for others is found spending an evening visiting with long time friends scattered over several hundred miles, yet it seems like they are together in one big room. If you are new to the hobby you will more than likely visit with hams new and old through local repeaters.

Whether you are an old Ham, new Ham, or in the process of becoming a licensed operator, the key is to keep learning. Don't limit yourself to one area of our hobby. Try a new mode of operation, get involved in some public service, or explore weather spotting. The possibilities are endless. Get on the air often and remember to have fun!

73 (best wishes)

Mark Frankie

KA5TBK

September Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The September Club meeting was held Thursday, September 16th, with 16 members present. We were treated to a very informative presentation on BPL and its effects on amateur radio by Jory McIntosh KJ5RM, ARRL Assistant Section Manager in charge of the BPL Task Force for North Texas. Jory also provided a web address to find out anything and everything you ever wanted to know about BPL and what you can do to help amateur radio fight this battle <http://texasbpl.com/>.

Due to the length of Jory's presentation the normal meeting activities were expedited. Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes of the August meeting and the members voted to accept them. Jon Hykel KM5PZ gave a quick synopsis on the activities of the Planning Committee. This included the Texas QSO Party at Lake Bardwell, the upcoming Train Festival in Ennis on Saturday, October 16th where we will be setting up an information booth and an HF rig, a tower raising party at Terry Dowd's KE5APL on Saturday October 23rd, and the next Planning Committee meeting at Cancun's, Wednesday October 13th at 7:00pm. The club members present voted to put the Midland repeater back

on line. The repeater committee is working on getting the Link controller operational and hooked up to the Midland. In the meantime please periodically ID the repeater. We hope to have the controller functional soon. Danny Woodruff KA5RDB and Mark Frankie KA5TBK spent a morning at the EOC cleaning up and straightening up. The only thing left there is the club's vertical antenna and 125' of coax. Danny reported that there were still no definite details on the November Emergency exercise with the hospitals of Ellis County. A Membership Drive Committee was formed in an effort to recruit the numerous Hams in Ellis County. Members of this committee are KA5TBK, KM5PZ, KD5NFW, and chair Bill Cleaver KD5PMB. We had 2 new members join the ECARC: Larry Keiser KA5RCR of Midlothian, and Josh Messenger WA5VTO of Red Oak. Please join me in welcoming these two gentlemen to the ECARC and give them a shout when you here their calls.

The next club meeting is Thursday October 21st. KM5PZ will be giving a presentation on Amateur Radio Contesting complete with helpful hints, tips, and standard procedures. I'm sure this will be an interesting and beneficial topic for everyone, especially us newcomers. I look forward to seeing you all there!

FCC POISED TO ACT ON BPL REPORT AND ORDER IN MID-OCTOBER

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) will present a draft broadband over power line (BPL) Report and Order to the full Commission when it meets October 14, the ARRL has learned. More than 6100 comments have been filed on the topic since the FCC released its initial Notice of Inquiry in the proceeding, ET Docket 03-104, in April 2003 and a subsequent Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 04-37, in February of this year. The ARRL so far on this round has taken its concerns regarding Amateur Radio and BPL to three of the Commission's five members. In a meeting this week with FCC Commissioner Jonathan S.

Adelstein, an ARRL delegation again asserted that the FCC is pushing the proceeding to a predetermined conclusion with little regard for technical issues. "Because the FCC has been unwilling to release for public review the results of its own tests and observations of BPL systems, the ARRL has no confidence that the draft Report and Order will be based on sound engineering and believes the rush to adoption is unwarranted and premature," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said in a follow-up letter to Adelstein. The letter reiterated the League's key points that, it said, "represent the minimum protection" that should be incorporated into the BPL Report and Order prior to Commission adoption. "Without adequate safeguards, the deployment of BPL systems will result in the pollution and degradation of the unique natural resource of the high-frequency radio spectrum," Sumner said. The League argued that the R&O include a reduction in the radiated emission limit. The ARRL wants the limit set 30 dB below current Part 15 requirements, which, it says, were established with narrowband point-source radiators in mind. "The record in this proceeding clearly establishes that BPL is not a point-source radiator," the ARRL's letter asserted. The ARRL pointed out that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has concluded that at the current Part 15 limit, interference is "likely" to receivers in land vehicles 75 meters from BPL-connected power lines and to fixed stations 460 meters from such power lines. "Given the number of amateur stations and the fact that they almost invariably are located near power lines, the areas of potential interference at the existing Part 15 limit are clearly too large to permit case-by-case resolution of interference issues," Sumner said. "Based on experience with the very limited test deployments of BPL systems to date, notably in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Southern Wake County, North Carolina, and Cottonwood, Arizona," the ARRL told Adelstein, "widespread BPL deployment at the existing Part 15 radiated emission limit will result in an unmanageable incidence of interference." The only way to reduce these areas of potential interference is to reduce the radiated emission limit, the ARRL maintained. Mandatory "notching" of the amateur bands by 30 dB would

reduce the probability of interference to amateur stations sufficiently that the remaining interference cases might be resolved on a case-by-case basis. "However," the League added, "such notching would not solve the problem for other radio services." The ARRL contingent, which included Sumner, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, decried the FCC's lack of response to issues Sumner raised two months ago regarding a North Carolina Amateur Radio interference complaint. The ARRL representatives carried copies of correspondence questioning a July OET report that essentially gave the Progress Energy Corp BPL field trial a clean bill of health despite continued interference on amateur frequencies. The League delegation suggested to Adelstein that the OET has swept the North Carolina BPL interference case under the rug and has attempted to discount interference issues in general while overstating the FCC's ability to address them. Other points the ARRL has stressed in its meetings with Commission members include: * consider including the NTIA's recommendations to standardize measurement procedures and to require that Access BPL systems be certificated, not merely verified. * requiring independent confirmation of rules compliance before a BPL system is placed in operation. * the need for advance public notification of BPL system locations and characteristics, something not included in the NPRM * performance standards for interference mitigation that would require that interference be terminated immediately upon notification to the operator; and meaningful penalties for non-compliance, including fines. * require BPL marketers to "give clear notice to potential customers that licensed radio services have priority and that the delivery of broadband service via BPL cannot be guaranteed." In addition to Adelstein, ARRL representatives have met so far with Commissioners Kevin J. Martin, and Michael J. Copps. The League hopes to meet with the principal advisors to Chairman Michael K. Powell and Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy before the October 7 cutoff for ex parte communications in the proceeding.

Richard's Rants

aka Bird Droppings



As I was sitting here writing this article for the newsletter, I began to wonder why I was writing it five days late. I just seem to be

a little more tired than usual. Then I started remembering all the activities the club has been involved with over the past few months. The month of September alone was filled with five different activities, not including the 2 regular nets and monthly club meeting! We started off the month with a bang with the 2nd Annual ECARC Blood Drive on Saturday the 4th. We set up an information table with working HF and our efforts resulted in 2 additional students for our Technician operator class. Most importantly we were able to get 24 blood donations to help the needs in our area. The drawing for the Trek 50 bike has been held and unfortunately no one from our list of donors was the lucky winner.

September 11th, the second Saturday of the month, had 2 events. The first was our regular breakfast QSO at Cancun's, but it was at an earlier time which is tough on us young 'uns. After breakfast we all met in Red Oak for the Founders Day Parade. We had 7 vehicles involved in the parade including 2 Yorkies riding in style on N5WC's motorcycle and KE5AZU's convertible Mustang. After the parade we set up an information booth at Red Oak Park. This event also stirred some interest in our club from some local Hams.

The third Saturday of September was the introductory class for our new Technician Licensing School. From what I understand, the Licensing Class Committee recruited 16 students for the inaugural course. That is potentially 16 new Hams and 16 new club members. That is outstanding!

The last weekend of the month was the Texas QSO Party at Lake Bardwell. We had several members set up RV's at the camp site and had a great attendance from club members dropping by to visit. We also got the attention of a few non hams that were camping at the lake. Everyone had a great time. We logged

nearly 200 contacts in over 70 Texas counties and even a contact in Canada. A big thanks goes out to Terry KE5APL who worked well over 100 of those contacts! I would also like to thank Gary KD5ZCP for cooking some excellent brisket and fixings for the dinner that Saturday evening.

September was definitely a busy month. And October is shaping up to be just as busy! The club has become very active of late and with all the different activities going on there is bound to be something that you are interested in. Pick out an event that tweeks your interest and get involved. The whole point here is to get out and participate and have fun! Now I am going to go take a nap.

73

Richard KD5NFW

R.A.C.E.S.

by Danny Woodruff KA5RDB

Looking back over notes and records of the various RACES Nets called these last few months, one item we need to all look at again is Net Procedures and Participation. Each Net is a directed Net, which means do not transmit unless the Net Control Station recognizes you and gives you permission. When a Net is activated, the reason for the activation is given. Net activities are aligned/directed towards that emergency. As you all know, all the Nets we have had this past year have dealt with severe weather reporting and severe weather conditions within Ellis County. Stations checking on after the initial check-in when the Net is activated need to monitor when they are outside of the effected area (Ellis County) to preclude tying up the net. We have several new members that only have a hand held radio (5 watts only). Those stations trying to check on are not able to hit the repeater due to weak signals.

We are lucky to have a number of members who monitor the weather conditions when National Weather Service, Fort Worth has issued warnings for this part of North Texas. I would like to thank you for your efforts. Your efforts give us extra time to prepare for the possibility of severe weather here. BUT, just because when you turn on your 2 meter radio, you hear a station or two close to your area making reports, some don't check-in. You need to check on

and participate in the Net by acting as "Logging Station" to free up the Net Control to call the Net, or help monitor the other Public Safety Radio Channels in your area and relay any pertinent information from that network.

Your efforts in making these reports enable us to gather information more quickly and get it into the National Weather Service, Fort Worth. I am proud to pass on to you a comment made the other day by a National Weather Service Forecaster....."The Ellis County Bunch makes factual – accurate reports, no blue sky reports, they sound very professional." This statement should make each one of you feel good about what you do in this organization. Disaster Exercise: We are still in a holding pattern right now, awaiting more information from the hospitals within Ellis County. No change in the current request from Ennis Regional Hospital. They would like us to be able to communicate via voice or message to Dallas Baylor Hospital in the movement of patients via ground or air ambulance.

Tnx

Danny, KA5RDB

October Member Profile: Jon Hykel KM5PZ

by Cathy Schack

Jon Hykel was born in West, Texas on August 21, 1974. He became interested in radio communications at age 8, when his dad purchased a police scanner and some walkie-talkies. At age 16, Jon and his friend Terry KE5APL spent countless hours listening to short-wave radio transmissions from all over the world. They both decided that one day they would get their ham radio licenses so that they could send as well as receive radio signals.

Jon started off working for the Emergency Medical Service in Ellis County, but he and a friend were interested in attending the fireman's academy and eventually becoming arson investigators. This required police certification first, so in 1996, Jon signed up to attend the police academy at Navarro College. After graduating, he worked as a police dispatcher for the Ellis County Sheriff's Department for



several months. He then joined the Ennis Police Department where he worked as a patrol officer for five years. He trained to become part of the SWAT team and he participated in many drug raids. In addition, he became an assistant trainer of the drug-sniffing dogs used by the department. He eventually left the police department to work for his dad's construction company as a crew foreman, a job which "paid more and was less stressful" than police work.

In 1996, Jon got his Technician's license, and he soon upgraded to a Technician-plus, then General, then an Advanced license. His first radio was an ICOM ICT- 7A hand-held two-meter. He now has "a roomful of equipment".

Jon enjoys "rag-chewing on 80 meters", talking to out-of-country stations where he has logged 70 DXCC countries he has worked, working an occasional contest, and of course RACES. Other hobbies include photography, fishing, camping, and magic and card tricks. He promises to demonstrate this last skill at our next club get-together. Jon and his parents live in Ennis. He has a girlfriend named Dana who lives in Lancaster and who "supports his hobby."

R.A.C.E.S Training Topic: Reporting Criteria

There are certain criteria for reporting severe weather. Recall that a thunderstorm is defined as severe if it produces a tornado, hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger, and/or wind gusts 58 miles an hour or higher. It would be desirable to report events associated with a thunderstorm before they reach these severe levels. Use the following guidelines for reporting weather events.

Report hail occurrences when the hailstones have a diameter of 1/2 inch, and report wind gusts when their speed reaches 50 miles an hour. See tables 1 and 2 for estimations of hail size and wind speed. Obviously, tornadoes and funnel clouds should be reported. A funnel cloud is defined as a violently rotating column of air which is not in contact with the ground. It is usually marked by a funnel-shaped cloud extending downward from the cloud base (hence its name). If the violently rotating air column reaches the ground, it is called a tornado. An important point to note is that the visible funnel DOES NOT have to extend to the ground for a tornado to be present. Instead, look for a rotating cloud of dust and debris underneath a funnel cloud as evidence that the tornado's circulation has reached the ground.

Hail Size Estimates (table 1)

Pea	25
Penny	0.75
Quarter	1.00
Half Dollar	1.25
Golfball	1.75
Tennis Ball	2.50
Baseball	2.75
Grapefruit	4.00

Wind Speed Estimates (table 2)

Speed (MPH) Effects

25-31 Large branches in motion; whistling in telephone wires

32-38 Whole trees in motion

39-54 Twigs break off of trees; wind impedes walking

55-72 Damage to chimneys and TV antennas; pushes over shallow rooted trees

73-112 Peels surface off roofs; windows broken; trailer houses overturned

113+ Roofs torn off houses; weak buildings and trailer houses destroyed; large trees uprooted

When making a report, you (or your dispatcher/control person) should include the following information:

- (1) WHO you are, and the name of your spotter group.
- (2) WHERE the event is occurring.
- (3) WHAT you have seen (the severe weather event).
- (4) MOVEMENT of the event. When estimating movement, don't use the motion of small cloud elements for estimation. Instead, observe the storm as a whole for estimates of motion.

October Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Sep Texas QSO Party Bardwell Lake	27	28	29	30	1 Oct	2 Licensing Class #2
3	4	5	6	7 7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410	8	9 8:00a QSO Breakfast at Cancun's VE Test
10	11	12	13	14 7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410	15	16 Licensing Class #3 Ennis Train Festival
17	18	19	20	21 7:30p ECARC Club Meeting	22	23 Tower Raising Party at KE5APL's
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Licensing Class #4
31	1 Nov	2	3	4	5	6 Licensing Class Review

Boat Anchors for Sale

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

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 Prewitt WB5BXJ.



