

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

October 2005  
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### E.C.A.R.C. Officers

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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



When Ham operators get talking, one topic that seems to come up from time to time, is the story of how they got started in the hobby. In my case, it began with a trip to my brother in law's house. I had been traveling a lot by automobile. As a result of the 55 mph speed limit at the time, I had purchased a CB radio. With most things I become involved in, I tend to go a bit overboard. I had assembled quite the CB radio system in my car. I won't go into great detail but as CBs go this one was above and beyond the call of duty. Due to the favorable position in the sunspot cycle I was able to talk to far away places like Kansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. I still recall his lack of enthusiasm over this performance. I soon found out why. He led me to a back room at his house where I laid eyes on a Collins S Line rig. Yes this was the first I had ever heard about Ham radio. Within minutes I was gazing upon glowing tubes and was getting a full explanation of why this was so superior to my less that spectacular effort at long range communication. The next event sealed the deal. We were talking to Australia. Not Kansas. The next hour we filled with a flurry of questions and answers which led to the purchase of the study guide book. The rest of this story is predictable.

I had a conversation with this brother in law this morning. He told me stories about his travels lately. He is a Captain for Southwest Airlines. In visiting with those who were touched by the recent hurricanes, he was told about many cases where health and welfare traffic was the only way many people had to know the location and condition of loved ones and family. For many it was days later before other means of communication became available. I felt a bit guilty about this, due to being on vacation with my wife I missed being home to listen and possibly passing some of this health and welfare traffic.

We need to remember that this is a valuable service we can give back in exchange for the use of the radio spectrum we are allowed. I'll look forward to hearing your stories of what you heard on the radio during this time. Even better,

stories of traffic you may have passed in service to those who were affected by the storms.

73

KA5TBK

## September Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The September meeting of the ECARC was held Thursday, September 15 with fourteen members and two visitors present. The two visitors were the President and Vice President of the Palestine ARC. Their club is going through growing pains much the same as our club has gone through over the past two years, and they were looking for any suggestions we might offer to help them over the hump. The meeting began at 7:35pm with the reading of last month's meeting minutes by Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ and they were approved by the membership present. A report by the Repeater Committee suggested that the new repeater was to ship on Tuesday September 20 and arrive within 5-7 days. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, it has yet to ship. A report from the Planning Committee was presented, including news of the Texas QSO Party. There was no old business discussed. New business consisted of Gary Haden KD5ZCP graciously volunteering to provide timely email updates to club members concerning upcoming events. Please direct any helpful comments or complaints to Gary at [justmegwh@aol.com](mailto:justmegwh@aol.com). The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm. The next monthly meeting of the ECARC will be Thursday, October 20, 7:30pm at the Waxahachie Fire Station Training Room on Water St.

## R.A.C.E.S.

by Bob Fitch K5ASU

Ellis County and the Cities in the county have just finished a 2-½ day Emergency Operations Exercise. Our RACES unit had 4 individuals attend this exercise and it was a great learning experience. Richard Bird – KD5NFW, Tommy

Vinson – KA5RDC, Ed Freeman – KC5UZG and myself made this exercise for the period. It was a very intensive exercise with a lot of problems to be solved. I wish that it had been possible for all the members to attend just such an exercise and see first hand the problems and necessary planning and logistics to deal with these problems. Even though this was a simulated emergency you got the feeling you were there and that it was real and was happening. A feeling that you had to get a handle on the problem and solve it. I brought away a better understanding of what it takes to handle problems in the county caused by terrorists, accidents or nature. Each of us needs to think about the problems in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. We have just gone through a second storm on the Gulf that included Texas and Western Louisiana. Things will be a long time returning to normal and in some cases will never be the same. We now see how important it is to have prior planning even if some of this planning goes badly. Along this line I refer to the problems on the highways when the people tried to get out of the Houston area. The only way we learn in these plans is to have an actual activation of the plan and see the failures in the plan. Hopefully we can refine the plan in the Houston-Galveston case for future storms. This same thing applies to the plans for our local area. No plan is perfect but it is better than a blank sheet of paper.

I want to thank all the members who have participated in the Public Service Events with RACES. This summer we have provided communications for 3 bike rallies, a Blood Drive and the Ennis Polka Festival. In addition we have been called for Weather Spotter service to help the National Weather Service many times this year. This has put us on public view and helps give us a trusted standing in the community. Keep up the good work and positive image. I keep harping on members to get their ID card picture taken so I can complete their ID Card. Get your picture taken at the next club meeting.

73s – Bob Fitch – K5ASU

## Education Committee

by Robert Crosby KD5YHY

With the summer season passing it's time to start up the Education Committee.

Instead of having a Technician class over an extended time frame I would like to organize an all day class. So please volunteer to meet and help with this event by sending me an email to [kd5yhy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kd5yhy@sbcglobal.net) and I will schedule a meeting time.

## NCVEC QUESTION POOL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES NEW SCHEDULE

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced that the Question Pool Committee (QPC) has adjusted its schedule for revising Amateur Radio examination question pools. This decision was prompted by recent FCC announcements, changes in radio communication technology and recommendations from VECs. "The QPC feels it is imperative to produce a new Technician class pool now to better position the Amateur Radio Service for growth in the years ahead," the QPC said in a statement released September 9. "The new schedule impacts previously announced release dates for all three question pools." The new Technician class (Element 2) pool now tops the schedule and is due for release January 1, 2006, effective July 1, 2006. General class (Element 3) pool updates, previously scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2008, will be released December 1, 2006, and become effective July 1, 2007. The Extra class (Element 4) pool originally scheduled for 2005, will be released on December 1, 2007, and will become effective July 1, 2008. Barring any major rules changes, subsequent updates to all pools will follow the traditional four-year cycle, the QPC said. Selected by representatives of the 12 VECs attending the NCVEC's annual conference, the QPC consists of Chair Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Anchorage VEC; Perry Green, WY1O, ARRL VEC,

and Larry Pollock, NB5X, W5YI VEC. A team of associates representing various VEC organizations as well as experts selected from the amateur community will assist the QPC. Interested persons are encouraged to submit questions to the NCVEC QPC via the NCVEC Web site <http://www.ncvec.org>.

## Planning Committee

The Planning Committee is planning on having an article for next month's newsletter.

## Treasurer's Chest

The Treasurer will have a report for next month's newsletter.

## Richard's Rants

aka Bird Droppings

Well, I didn't rant much last month since I failed to produce a newsletter for September, so I will try to catch up with everything that has happened over the past two months. We sponsored our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blood Drive at the end of August. Boy was that a scorcher! We measured 106 degrees in the shade sitting on that blacktop parking lot. We had great support from club members coming out to assist with setup and public relations. We were a bit short on blood donors from club members, but we still managed to collect 16 units for the local community. You should all be proud of your efforts.

Just this past weekend was the Texas QSO Party. We operated this event last year from Lake Bardwell. This year the contest was operated from my Dad's house between Midlothian and Ovilla. It turned out to be a pretty good decision since Hurricane Rita decided to blow through with 30+mhp winds on Saturday, and Sunday had 102 degree heat on tap. For most of the contest the weather was poor and so was the participation from other Texas stations. Several of us sat around pouting in our beers about no stations contesting until Wendell Carrington N5WC paid us a visit on Saturday afternoon. He claimed to have worked 90 stations in less than an hour from his home station. At that time we had worked about 26 stations in over 7 hours. We felt there may be a certain

level of fertilizer in his claim, so we asked him to sit down and work a few for us. Thirty minutes later Wendell had logged nearly 50 contacts with a rate of 130 contacts per hour at one point. This was enough to kick start us newbie contesters. After it was all over Sunday afternoon, WD5DDH had logged nearly 300 contacts with a score of 52k. I want to thank Wendell for coming out and turning a negative experience into a positive one. I would also like to thank Gary KD5ZCP for preparing the brisket and beans, and everyone that came out and made this event successful. Extra thanks go out to my dad, John, for opening up his home to the club for this event.

The next contest on my radar is the 2005 CQ WW DX Contest the weekend of October 29-30. I plan to work this event from my home station. However, there is a club competition element to this contest. If anyone else is interested in working this contest as a single operator and also submitting their log with a club submittal, please contact me and we can get it done. Propagation has not been great lately for DX, but the season is changing and you never know how conditions may shape up on contest weekend. Last item on my list is the ECARC Christmas Party. I know it is only October now, but the first of December will be here before you know it. Please be thinking about where and when you would like to have this year's gathering. We will discuss at the next monthly club meeting. We can also discuss at the next monthly breakfast QSO at Cancun's on Saturday, October 8 around 8-8:30am. Look for an email from Gary to remind you.

73,  
Richard KD5NFW

## October R.A.C.E.S Training Topic

The topic for this month's RACES Training Net will be visual aspects of severe thunderstorms and wall clouds and other lowerings. The net will take place Thursday, October 6, at 7:30pm on the 145.410 repeater.

## October Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Sep	26	27	28	29	30	1 Oct
Texas QSO Party						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		8:00a QSO Breakfast at Cancun's <a href="#">VE Test</a>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			7:00p Planning Committee Meeting at El Rancho in Waxa.	7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				7:30p <a href="#">ECARC Club Meeting</a>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 Nov	2	3	4	5
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		



ECARC banner kinda dresses up the place.



Would-be contesters listening for "CQ".



We had high hopes!



Wendell arrives to show us how it's done.



The best part of events - fellowship.



Bob drops by to critique the efforts.