



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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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



Here we are again in the long, hot, "dog days" of summer. The ECARC is on the move. The club meeting attendance is way up, new members are joining, and we are promoting ham radio in new and different ways. Later in the year, we will sponsor a blood drive

and will provide Ham Radio classes in the Ferris public schools. Meetings are being arranged with the fire departments in our county, to create better communication and cooperation between Hams and emergency personnel. All of these actions will raise community awareness of the amateur radio service. We are also looking at several club activities such as transmitter hunts (fox hunts) and Saturday morning work parties to enhance the social aspect of the club. These activities will serve to sharpen our skills as well. It will be nice to be prepared in the event of interference, whether malicious or accidental. I look forward to helping with the raising of a tower or antenna system. A good example of this took place at Wendell's QTH last weekend. There is much to be learned by those of us with less experience. The wisdom of those with more experience will prove to be very valuable. It will give us the ability to share resources like gin poles and antenna analyzers.

On a different note, the power outage in the northeast is a reminder to us of the importance of what we do. The cascading effects of losing electric power go beyond the obvious lack of light and climate control. Most of us get water from a water tower that is filled by electric pumps. We get gas from pumps that require electric power, as well as the computer that controls it. When you consider the lack of telephones, both cell and hard-line, the ability to communicate by radio becomes very important. Some have back up power from generators or batteries. Keep in mind the generators will not work without fuel and should be tested periodically. We can also use our automobiles for power to run radios and should set aside some fuel for these purposes. Others may have antennas that are efficient enough to provide good local communication with very low power. In this case a handheld or portable radio with

several batteries could provide hours if not days of communication. I would like to encourage you to explore your options and be ready, to either serve your local community or to enhance the safety and peace of mind for you and your family.

To end on a lighter note, the next few months should prove to be exciting for ECARC. Jump in and have some fun!

Mark Frankie KA5TBK 73...

Dwayne's Corner

Activities for ECARC



Hello everyone, I have been thinking a lot on what E.C.A.R.C. has for activities throughout the year, and there is not much going on in the club during the year. Currently we have:

Monthly: 1st Thursday- Races Training Net
2nd Thursday- Information Net
3rd Thursday- Club Meeting

Yearly: Field Day in June
Christmas Dinner in December

I have come up with some ideas to try and get the club together at different times of the year. Who would like to get a T-Hunt going again? We could have it on the 1st Saturday of each month, and everyone meet for breakfast then meet at the park and go to hunting a transmitter. I for one have never done this before and would need some how-to instructions from a veteran in the field of T-Hunts. I understand that the club used to have this every month so we have got to have some pretty good "hunters" in the club that could show the new members a little bit about T-Hunts. Who would like to have a 1st Annual E.C.A.R.C. Campout "Special Event"? We could have this during a cool month where the temperature will stay in the mid 80's during the day. One place to have it might be at Bardwell Lake. We can rent camp sites there with electricity for about \$14.00

per day. I have worked portable out there many times and there are plenty of good trees to string up Dipoles! The members that want to stay the weekend could pitch a tent, and the members that do not want to stay can come out during the day and try some of the tasty Bar-B-Q or some of that prize winning Chili we all hear so much about. (W5ZGZ). Who knows the Birth Date of the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club? I propose we meet some where for dinner on this date and recognize the founding members of E.C.A.R.C. Any ideas on this? Maybe have an award go out to an outstanding club member that is the most active in the club for the year. Has the Club ever been in one of the local parades in the county? Talk about exposure to the county! Everyone is out there lined up to see the parade! I have access to a 16' trailer to have a float on if anyone is interested. I guess the bottom line is to come up with ideas to get the club a little more active throughout the year, and give all the club members a chance to participate in an activity that they and their families will enjoy. I hope that this article will bring out some good ideas for E.C.A.R.C., and feel free to bring up an idea at the club meetings because I think there are a lot of members that would like to do something with the club during the year and your idea just might be the ticket! I for one enjoy the company of E.C.A.R.C. members and learn a lot from each and every one of you. Thanks a bunch and until next month,

73, DE KD5HWP

August Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird, KD5NFW

The ECARC club meeting was held on Thursday, August 21st, in the training room of the Central Fire Station on Water Street at 7:30pm. We had 15 members and 2 visitors, Cathy Crosby and David Shaheen, in attendance. After several tense moments and Vice President Dwanye Phillips sweating a few bullets, President Mark Frankie arrived and opened the meeting at 7:37. Club Secretary Ray Calhoun read the minutes from the July meeting and the club voted to accept the minutes. There were several topics discussed under old business. The club will be

sponsoring a blood drive with Carter Bloodcare on Saturday, October 18th, in the parking lot of the Fine Arts Center at Waxahachie High School. The scheduled time for donations is 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. As the date draws closer I will provide more details and information regarding volunteers and items required to have a successful blood drive and put our club in front of the public in a positive manner. RACES organization and communication with county emergency personnel was another item discussed. A county wide meeting for Fire Departments will be scheduled within the next 2 months. A site for this meeting has yet to be determined, but Red Oak has been mentioned as a possible site.

The club will most likely organize a committee to determine who and what will be presented at this meeting on behalf of Ellis County RACES. There were quite a few exciting items under new business. The club accepted Tracey Mooneyhan, KD5WRP, as a new member. Please join me in welcoming Tracey to the club. Kenny Hickey, KD5VQN, generously made a \$100 donation to the repeater fund. The club is in the process of getting an ECARC banner manufactured. A banner will be very beneficial for exposure to the public as we become more involved in local events. The banner is in the design stage right now, so if you have a good idea for a design, please let me or Mark know. To that end, the club allocated \$100 toward the production of a banner. Bob Fitch, K5ASU, generously volunteered to purchase a vertical antenna for use at the EOC. David Shaheen, WB5GUG, in cooperation with the Palmer school district, is initiating a Ham Training Club at the Palmer schools. This is a great idea and an excellent opportunity for the club to promote Ham Radio. A committee consisting of Ken Isom, KD5AIA, Mark, KA5TBK, Tommy Vinson, KA5RDC, and David, WB5GUG, was formed to help get this project off the ground. If you would like to volunteer please contact one of these gentlemen.

Wendell Carrington, N5WC, had an antenna raising party Saturday, August 16th. Several club members including Bill Cleaver, KD5PMB, Tommy, KA5RDC, and Robert Crosby, KD5YHY, showed up bright and early to lend their expertise to the project. Wendell shared the experience with the club and thanked all who helped.

After the close of the meeting, Dwayne, KD5HWP gave a technical presentation on EchoLink. Just like when you take a buddy fishing to the spot where you caught 100 fish yesterday and don't even get a nibble today, we did not make any contacts in the brief time that we tried. EchoLink is a very interesting and useful mode of communication. It was even utilized during Hurricane Claudette. If you would like more information on EchoLink, take a look at Dwayne's article on the club website.

The next ECARC club meeting will be held Thursday, September 18th, in the training room of the Central Fire Station on Water Street at 7:30 pm. See you there!

R.A.C.E.S.

by Bob Fitch, K5ASU

On Thursday, 14 Aug 03 we observed the complete blackout of electrical services in the northeast United States and Canada. As you watched your television news you were taken back by the crowds of people and cars trying to get from point A to point B. Seems that no one knew exactly what they were doing or where they were going. Suppose that as you read this article on your computer the electrical service to this area was hit by the same failure of the power grid. How prepared are you for such an event? Is your car full of gasoline? Do you have a working flashlight with spare batteries? Do you have a battery radio with spare batteries? Do you have a means to run your ham radio with out using commercial electric power? Do you have a supply of bottle water on hand for the emergency? Do you have foods that can be stored and consumed with out refrigeration? Do you have candles and/or kerosene lamps that would furnish light in your home? Do you have a phone in your house other than a cordless phone? The list could go on and on .

It is realized that were can't have all the things that we enjoy with electric service so we have to pick the most important items to stock and have available for emergencies. As a RACES member, we are expected to provide service to the community even in times of such emergencies. Therefore, I would like to suggest that each of us review our present assets and get as many of the

essential items taken care of before any emergency comes that would catch us short. Give serious thought to all the items mentioned above. When the emergency comes it is too late to do the prior planning.

BE PROFESSIONAL even if we are classified as AMATEURS.

APRS Workshop

ARRL email

Preparations continue for the 03 NTX APRS Workshop. The workshop will be held on Saturday, September 6, at the Conference Center at the University of Texas at Dallas. The workshop will begin at 9am and will run until 6pm, with a break for lunch. This is a totally free event sponsored by the Comet Amateur Radio Club and the Plano Amateur Radio Klub. Up to date info will be available on www.n5oom.org.

Let's Go T-Hunting

by Joe Moell

Here's an introduction to RDF contesting in southern California, updated from a paper originally submitted for Proceedings of the West Coast VHF/UHF Conference. Put this article in your ham club newsletter to encourage members to try T-hunting.

VHF/UHF enthusiasts often install yagis and quads at their home stations. Many take them out on camping trips and use them on public service events. But did you know that some enjoy flying the freeways and beating the back roads with one hand on the steering wheel and the other on a rotating antenna mast? Perhaps you have seen these hams on weekends, intently driving and turning their beams. What are they doing? They are competing in hidden transmitter hunts.

If you've never experienced one of these mobile radio direction finding (RDF) contests, you have missed some of the greatest excitement a ham can have.

While there are several names for it such as "fox-hunting" and "bunny chasing," in southern California this sport is almost always referred to as "T-hunting."

Transmitter hunting seems to be one of the best kept secrets in ham radio, even though dozens of hams here consider themselves to be regular hunters. They range in age from the teens to the

eighties. Besides keeping the coordinated two-meter hunt frequency (146.565 MHz FM) hopping, hunters love to hash over their exploits by the hour on their favorite repeaters.

The idea is simple: One or two hams take a transmitter, antenna, and some sort of distinctive audio source to an carefully selected spot, then make continuous or intermittent transmissions. Usually they remain stationary, though mobile "bunnies" are popular with some groups. Sometimes there are more than one "T" to be found. Surplus ammunition cans are often used as hidden transmitter enclosures. The hunters, as individuals or in teams, do their best to home in on the hidden station(s) with their mobile and portable RDF gear. *For more information of this exciting aspect of our hobby, take a look at the 4-page article posted on the club website.*

Hams a Bright Spot During Power Blackout

reprinted from the ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League

When a power blackout struck at least a half dozen eastern states August 14, many Amateur Radio operators were ready and able to provide whatever assistance they could. Hardest hit were metropolitan areas like New York City, Detroit and Cleveland. In New York, residents and commuters found themselves stranded in electricity-dependent elevators and subway or rail cars while visitors ended up stuck at airports, which were forced to shut down. With the cellular systems overloaded or out altogether, the incident turned into a test of Amateur Radio's capabilities to operate without commercial power.

"It was a good drill," said New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D. But, he adds, it was a cautionary tale too.

"The lesson is that everybody gets a little complacent," he said. "Have emergency power backup and make sure it's working!" By and large, Carrubba said, ARES members did what they were trained to do. "It's going to show the worth of Amateur Radio," he said of the blackout response. "There were people on the air immediately."

Diane Ortiz, K2DO, the Public Information Coordinator for NYC-Long Island was one of them. When power

went down in her Suffolk County community, she started up an informal VHF net. Over the next 20 hours or so, it passed some 500 pieces of what Ortiz described as largely "health-and-welfare traffic." "People are getting on and helping," she said. In addition to handling messages for people stranded in the city, amateurs also relayed useful information, such as which stores or filling stations were open and operating. With many radio and TV stations dark, and hams were able to help fill the information void, Ortiz said.

In the Big Apple itself, ARES teams provided communication support for Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) set up at main transportation centers in Manhattan. ARES members also accompanied ERVs on fire calls. RACES activated in most Greater New York City area counties after a state of emergency was declared. Some ARES teams--including a few across the Hudson River in New Jersey--activated or remained on standby to help if called upon. In New Jersey, a net linked the Red Cross lead chapter's N2ARC in Princeton with other New Jersey ARC chapters.

Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK, reports scattered ARES activations. Williams, who lives in Dundee south of Detroit, was without power August 15 and relying on his emergency generator. Some Michigan ARES teams assisted emergency operations centers and the Red Cross. In Ohio, Section Emergency Coordinator Larry Rain, WD8IHP, reports that all ARES organizations in northern Ohio were activated after the power grid went down. Still going strong at week's end were ARES teams in Cleveland and Akron. "ARES is handling communication support for Ohio Emergency Management in the affected cities and communities," Rain said. Ohio VHF and UHF nets and the Ohio SSB net on HF have been handling blackout-related traffic.

Nancy Hall, KC4IYD--who lives 20 miles west of Cleveland--said she's glad she'd taken the ARRL Emergency Communications Level I class. "I have to say that being a ham and knowing about emergency preparedness did make life easier for me and my family," said Hall, who's now signed up for the Level II class. New England states were far less affected by the blackout.

ARES/RACES operators in the region were on standby after the blackout. Only Connecticut and sections of Western Massachusetts reported significant outages, and ARES nets activated in both states. Bill Sexton, N1IN/AAR1FP, an Army MARS member, said his emergency power capability permitted him to check into the Northeast SHARES (National Communications System HF Shared Resources Program) net and maintain e-mail contact after Berkshire County lost power. "The experience proved once again the great strength of ham radio in an emergency," Sexton said. "It is self-starting, and it is everywhere."

Boat Anchors of the Month

HF Transceiver : Kenwood TS-820S 10 thru 160 meter transceiver. Both power supplies built in, 110 vac and 12 vdc. Comes with microphone and power cord, owners manual, partial service manual and magazine ad with more specs and list of accessories. This radio was serviced and re-aligned this month. The radio looks like new ! Works and sounds like new ! 100 watts plus on all bands. Also included is a G5RV Jr. with instruction sheet and a MFJ 941 E Versa Tuner II.
 Complete station \$450.00
 w/o antenna and tuner \$400.00
 please reply direct to w5pdw@juno.com

Wanted : Newly licensed Ham. Need 2-meter mobile rig. Dual bander preferred.
 Contact Cal Beard at (469) 575-2212 or email
 calbeard@comcast.net

September Event Calendar

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

