

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

September 2004  
Volume 2; Issue 9

### 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



This month's newsletter is filled with exciting news about our club. You will read about a list of activities long enough to keep us busy every week in the month of September. Things like a camp out to work the

Texas QSO Party at Lake Bardwell, a blood drive sponsored by the club, classes for new hams and our participation in the Red Oak Founders Day Parade. This is just the tip of the iceberg. You can read about this and more in the pages of this newsletter.

Our club is getting a lot of press in Ellis County these days. All of these good things and more are the direct result of some hard work by a growing number of dedicated Hams who have worked, both together and individually, to make things happen. The funny part about all this work is that if you ask any of these guys about the work they are doing, they will tell you they're having a blast. While it may be a lot of work and takes a good bit of time, it's also a lot of fun. In the process of planning there is much discussion and debate to try to seek the best course of action. During these times of discussion and debate there is another benefit unfolding. This is the camaraderie that is being built. It's working side by side on a project that we learn to work as a team. We don't always agree but we bend and move to try to reach the center of any issue. It has amazed me how much has been done in the past few months. This is just the start of what we can be as the Ellis County ARC.

We have room for all kinds of long and medium range plans. The foundations for some of these plans are already being laid. There is room for everyone at many different levels. As Ellis County ARC members we all have a part in this. We all have different skills and abilities and when we work together we become more than the sum of all the parts. This became evident at our last field day. If someone saw a task where they had experience, they would not only perform the task but would take the time to show others around them how it was done. Many of us learned to do things that will make us better Hams, and as a group, a better Ham Club.

Our meetings are becoming very well attended lately. This is one of the best places to begin. It's a time to take care of club business and get to know your fellow club members. It's always good to put a face with a name or call sign. There is no better time than now to jump in and have fun with our hobby.

I would like to thank every one of you for being a member of the Ellis County ARC. The fact that you have chosen to be a club member says a lot about you as a Ham Operator. I look forward to working together during the next few months. I will be trying to contact each of you by phone this month to find out what ideas you might have for the club and where you would like to fit in. Please be thinking about this before I call.

73

Mark Frankie  
KA5TBK

## August Club Meeting Notes

by Richard Bird KD5NFW

The August club meeting was held with 20 members in attendance. The meeting started off with a very inspirational testimonial from Darla Matgiby, a double lung-heart transplant survivor who has directly benefited from blood donors and blood drives like the one ECARC is sponsoring this Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Every club member at the meeting was moved by her story.

Club Secretary Ray Calhoun W5ZGZ read the minutes of the July meeting and the club voted to accept. Next on the agenda was the committee reports. The Club Bylaws Committee presented a proposed draft to the club officers at the July meeting thus concluding their task. The club officers held a meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed bylaws and made the decision to table the issue for more research. Jon Hykel KM5PZ, chair for the Planning and Steering Committee, reported on the numerous events coming up in September. Please read Jon's article elsewhere in the newsletter for the details. Robert Crosby KD5YHY, chair of the Education Committee, and Bill Cleaver KD5PMB tag-

teamed the progress report on the upcoming operator licensing class. Please see Robert's article for more details on this project. Club Treasurer Danny Woodruff KA5RDB presented the quarterly treasurer's report to the club members in attendance. There were two new committees appointed, Repeater Committee and Equipment Committee. The repeater committee members are Kenny Hickey KD5VQN, KA5RDB, Bill Brandon W5CTU, Wilson Springer N5OUW, and chair Richard Bird KD5NFW. The equipment committee members are KD5YHY, Gary Haden KD5ZCP, KD5NFW, and chair Mark Frankie KA5TBK. As you can see from all the activity and committees, the ECARC is actively moving forward and needs your support to keep the momentum going. I look forward to seeing you at the next club meeting, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Richard's Rants

aka Bird Droppings



The Ellis County ARC is sponsoring its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blood Drive this Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 1:00pm in the

parking lot of the Wal-Mart Super Center in Waxahachie.

Of all the great activities the Ellis County ARC is involved in this month, none is more important or of such significance to the community than the blood drive and your donation. In order to keep an adequate supply of blood on hand, Carter BloodCare needs 800 donations a day. One unit of blood has a shelf life of only 42 days and can save as many as 3 lives. There are benefits to the donors as well. You will receive a free mini-physical, blood type, cholesterol, and satisfaction of knowing you helped save a life. Many people are under the misguided notion that for whatever reason, their medical condition precludes them from donating. Please follow this link

<http://www.carterbloodcare.org/wsf/eligibility.htm> to find out more about what conditions may or may not prevent you from donating.

For those of you who were at last month's club meeting, you were no doubt moved by the inspirational story of double lung-heart transplant patient Darla Matgiby. I would like to thank Darla for sharing her experiences with the club, she did a wonderful job. If you are healthy enough to give blood, her personal story of triumph should be all the motivation you need to roll up your sleeve. If you are ineligible to donate for health reasons, please pass the word to your family and friends. Carter BloodCare needs your support. To reserve a specific time to donate please follow this link to sign up <http://iwebb.carterbloodcare.org/pls/iwebb/aspn?pzp=76203&psp=SPON039489>. You may also contact me to sign you up at [kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net) or 972 723-8420. Walk-ins are obviously welcome as well.

73

Richard KD5NFW

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

by Danny Woodruff KA5RDB

The hospitals in North Texas are going to hold their semi-annual disaster exercise with a tentative date of November 15th. Ennis Regional Hospital and Waxahachie Baylor are going to hold work shops in the near future to outline what they plan to do and which areas they would like for us to assist them in.

At a workshop held today at Ennis Regional Hospital they stated they would like for us to assist them in communicating with Dallas Baylor Hospital. Dallas Baylor would be one of the hospitals they would be moving patients to in the event of an emergency. A workshop is scheduled for Waxahachie Baylor Hospital after the first of September at which time they to will have a draft of their plans put together. It is presumed they too will be using Dallas Baylor as a receiving hospital in the event of an emergency. The type radio traffic they would be running through us is "number of patients being moved from one hospital to another and by what means, ground ambulance or aircraft".

There may be additional sites to be set up and manned and that is with East Texas EMS in Ennis and Waxahachie.

This joint exercise will give both hospitals within Ellis County, East Texas EMS and us, a good test of our skills in setting up radio equipment at all the locations and running both voice "FM" or packet - PSK31.

For those of you with 2 M, 2M / 70 CM with or without cross band capability, this exercise with will be a good test of your equipment. Part or all the frequencies listed in the R.A.C.E.S. Operating Plan will be used. HF frequencies are listed as "TBA" To Be Announced. If we can operate PSK31 we will work out at a later date the HF frequencies to be used. As quickly as the hospitals make known exactly what, when and where they want us to participate we can get a planning committee put together to start on this end of the exercise.

## Don't Be a Mushroom

by Bill Cleaver Jr. KD5PMB

Under the outstanding leadership of President Mark Frankie the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club is experiencing a refreshing burst of energy. With regularly scheduled "on the air" networks twice a month and the regular monthly meeting, everyone has the opportunity to be informed about the club's needs and growth.

The month of September doesn't have an open weekend. With the club's blood drive, VE testing, monthly QSO breakfast, the Red Oak Founders Day Parade, launching of a classroom oriented ham radio school and the Texas QSO Party at Lake Bardwell, we are making strong progress toward cementing a positive public image, one we can all be proud of. The club's planning and steering committee is busy working on future projects to promote the club's positive image in the community and with the leaders of the city and county governments.

Amateur radio is a wonderful hobby that never really demands anything from you. All activities of the club and club members are strictly voluntary. You can participate in one event, all events or none of the events. The important thing is that no member should feel left out. It's all in the open for each of you to enjoy. At the June club meeting I noticed a number of members that I haven't seen since the previous June meeting. Several of the absentee members have made observations regarding the

positive energy in the club. The meetings are full of projects and we don't always agree on an issue, but we are no longer 5 or 6 members sitting around the table discussing non-amateur radio related issues. Our activities are focused on amateur radio and public service. Now things are changing. The club is moving hard and fast with a synergy no one can recall in recent times. If you have questions about the projects of the club, contact active members and find out. Join the Information Net the second Thursday of the month. If you are undecided about the way things are going, find out firsthand by attending the next club meeting. Don't sit in the dark and absorb fertilizer. Don't be a mushroom.

## Education Committee

by Robert Crosby KD5YHY

I would like to thank KD5PMB, KM5PZ, WB5GUG and KD5ZCP for all of the great work they have done for this committee. The committee will be meeting one last time on September 7th if anyone else would care to join. The scheduled beginning of classes is on September 18th at the Waxahachie Salvation Army with a starting time of 9:30 A.M. The classes will be held every other Saturday for five weeks. If you need any additional information feel free to contact any of the members of the committee.

## Planning and Steering Committee

by Jon Hykel KM5PZ

The month of September holds a lot of activities for ECARC. First off, let me say that the next meeting of the Planning Committee will be taking place on Wednesday September 8th at 7:00pm. Location will be Cancun's Mexican restaurant in Waxahachie. Again all are welcome and encouraged to attend. Starting off the month, September 4th is the ECARC Blood Drive at Wal-Mart in Waxahachie. We will have an information booth set up with a live demo of amateur radio. Please drop by and say hello, donate some blood or a little time. Blood Drive starts at 9am. On Saturday September 11th, we are heading to Red Oak for the Red Oak

Founders Day. We will be entering our vehicles in the parade that is going to kick off at 9am. After the parade we will have an ECARC Information Booth set up and are looking for volunteers who have a couple of hours to spare on a Saturday. For more information please contact Kenny KD5VQN at [kd5vqn@yahoo.com](mailto:kd5vqn@yahoo.com).

September 25th and 26th is the Texas QSO Party. This is basically a Texas Field Day we will be participating in. We will have this event at Mott Park at Lake Bardwell. We have the group shelter for this event. There is parking for 20 vehicles, 4 RV hookups, electric lights, large BBQ pit, tables and chairs. If you would like an RV hookup please reserve it now through Richard or myself, first come first serve. We will be having a BBQ at the lake on Saturday night. If you plan on attending the cookout please let us know in advance so we can prepare accordingly, and a small donation will be needed to help cover the cost of food. We have also started a sign up sheet for radio operators for this event. Each time slot will be a hour long and you may fill up as many as you wish. Please contact myself or Richard Bird to reserve a time. Equipment will be a Yaesu FT 847 HF/VHF/UHF rig and we will be operating with 600 watts of power. Make sure and attend this fun event, bring your radios, fishing poles, family, and hunger for the nights BBQ. Directions to the park will be sent in an email to all club members. Non members can request directions by emailing Jon Hykel [km5pz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:km5pz@sbcglobal.net) or Richard Bird [kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kd5nfw@sbcglobal.net), or you can pick them up at the September club meeting. Visitors are welcome.

The Planning committee will be working hard in the upcoming meetings to fill up the fall/winter with events for the club. If you have any ideas please contact Jon Hykel KM5PZ at [km5pz@arrl.net](mailto:km5pz@arrl.net).

## Hams Assist Hospital After Telephone Outage

Reprinted from The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) volunteers in Maryland helped bridge a communication gap August 16 after Prince George's Hospital Center in

Cheverly--the county's largest--experienced a near-total telephone outage at around midday. The Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management called on ARES-RACES volunteers, under the direction of Prince George's County Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer Jim Cross, WI3N, to supplement the hospital's back-up telecommunications system. The radio amateurs had support from The Green Mountain Repeater Association's 146.610 and 146.880 MHz repeaters. ARES-RACES volunteers deployed to the hospital as well as to the county emergency operations center and to two other area hospitals--Laurel Regional and Bowie Health Center--to provide coordination and support. "Our people showed a level of dedication to be proud of," Cross said. WRC-TV, the NBC affiliate in Washington, DC, reported the ARES-RACES activation and said the outage may have been due to a computer system malfunction. The hospital's telephone service was out for about 10 hours.--Murray Green, K3BEQ; NBC4; Chauncy Bowers, N3XOR

## September Member Profile: Bill Cleaver KD5PMB

by Cathy Schack

Bill Cleaver, Jr. CGP was born in Fort Worth in 1945. His father, grandfather and great grandmother all worked for Southwestern Bell. After high school, Bill attended the Elkins Institute in Dallas and completed a degree in radio electronics and broadcasting. At age 17, he got his Radiotelephone First Class operator license (GROL today), which is the equivalent of an extra-class ham radio license, but for use in commercial radio. In 1964, he was hired by Station KBEC radio as a morning deejay. One day a pretty young lady named Ruth came into the station to pick up an album she had won in a contest. It was love at first sight. Bill and Ruth have been happily married for 40 years. They have three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild "in the hangar". In 1966, Bill became the fourth generation of his family to work for Southwestern Bell. He worked with their switching systems and later in management, attending many of their training classes. In the mid 1970s, Bell

transferred him to Houston, where he taught courses in electronics and digital transmission systems at Bell's technical training center. He and Ruth also were involved in emergency medical volunteer services there, and Bill received his emergency medical technician's license and taught first aid and CPR. He received many awards and commendations for community service, and he once saved a woman's life after a car accident, in Fort Worth, receiving a Theodore N. Vail bronze medal for noteworthy public service from SBC. Bill was later transferred to Dallas, where he became an area-wide troubleshooter for Bell. He was also involved in writing the Dallas Area Disaster Plan.



After living 17 years in Fort Worth and commuting to Dallas, he moved back to Waxahachie in 1994. He handled Bell's national long distance accounts from 1986 until his retirement in November of 2000.

Bill got his amateur radio license in 2001, and he was invited to join the Ellis County Amateur Radio Club and the RACES group by Danny Woodruff, a fellow Kiwanis Club member. For several years, Bill served the Kiwanis Club of Waxahachie as their secretary.

As an ARRL certified instructor, Bill is very involved with the club in setting up classes for new hams, and he is committed to RACES, storm spotting and community service. He hopes that the club will become increasingly active in community events that will "elevate the positive position of the club within the community." He recalls that back in 2001, only a few people attended club meetings and not much was being accomplished. It was more like a repeater club with RACES.

Bill is happy that "finally we have some energetic leadership guiding the club, creating an excitement among the members. This has brought more projects to do, adequate volunteers to staff these projects, and a thirst for more community involvement." In the last few months, Bill feels that the club has taken a very positive direction and it is "daily gaining respect in the community." Bill's experience and technical expertise make him a very valuable asset to the club.

## Boat Anchors for Sale

This All-In-One Fax/scanner/printer (color) is a unit I used for three weeks for demo. It is packed in original packing and is warranted. I did not want to unpack it so I took a picture of one that Office Depot has on display. They want \$199, I am asking \$150. I also have a collection of resistors and capacitors of various value, several bulk transistors (I had a shop) and several of the sylvania and RCA individual packaged transistors with cross out listing. The plastic packaging is faded over the years but they are never opened. There is an assortment of other components. I also have a complete VOR/VORTAC navigation simulator tester. In 1969 this unit cost \$3,200. I have no idea what to ask for it now. There is also a Compaq 4100 series lap top w/software. Contact David Shaheen at [frdavid@copper.net](mailto:frdavid@copper.net).

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 at [kd5zcp@aol.com](mailto:kd5zcp@aol.com) or 469 348-6817.

### SPOTTER TERMS



# R.A.C.E.S. Training Material for September 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Using NWS Information

While everyone should keep a close eye on weather conditions whenever storms threaten, storm spotters have a definite need to know what's going on before, during and even after a severe weather event. The Norman National Weather Service forecast office, working with the [Storm Prediction Center](#), provides an entire suite of forecast products to keep you informed about severe weather from days to minutes before the storms.

*Is today a severe weather day?*

During the height of storm season, this is a question that spotters should ask daily. The NWS provides information and forecasts to help answer this question:

### **CONVECTIVE OUTLOOK**

Issued by the Storm Prediction Center, these [convective outlooks](#) cover the current day, tomorrow and the next day (day three). They are issued for the 48 contiguous states of the U.S. and offer guidance to NWS offices and others on where severe weather may occur.

### **HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK**

Based in part on the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) convective outlooks, these [outlooks](#) provide a heads-up description of any hazardous weather that's expected in the next week. The main focus is on today and tomorrow, with more general information provided further into the future.

The HWO is written specifically for storm spotters, emergency managers and others who need specific severe weather forecast information for planning purposes. However, the HWO is available to everyone via the [Internet](#) and [Weather Radio](#).

The HWO provides details on what is expected (including what types of storms and hazards), when it is likely to happen and the meteorological reasoning behind it. It is written by NWS forecasters who are the experts in your local area and is updated as often as needed.

### **AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION**

This [technical discussion](#) comes from your local NWS office and provides the reasoning and explanation behind what the forecasters are thinking. This can be used to supplement the information contained in the Hazardous Weather Outlook.

### **SHORT TERM FORECAST**

The local NWS office issues [short term forecasts](#) to describe what's expected in the next few hours over small groups of counties. These forecasts may include information on where storms are anticipated, or details on what existing severe storms are expected to do in the next few hours.

### **TORNADO/SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH**

[Tornado and severe thunderstorm watches](#) are issued by the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center. Watches typically cover a large geographic area and are in effect for several hours. Watches may prompt the beginning of formal spotter activities in a community.

A watch means conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms and perhaps tornadoes to develop in and close to the watch area. Remember that people in and close to a watch area should be alert to severe storm development. Also remember that watches are not issued for every single severe storm.

### **TORNADO WARNING**

A [tornado warning](#) is an urgent message from your local National Weather Service office. The warning means a tornado is imminent or occurring and indicates that immediate action is needed to avoid injury.

A tornado warning is usually based on a combination of radar information and storm spotter observations. Tornado warnings are issued for parts of counties and are in effect for about half an hour.

A tornado warning may prompt local officials to sound outdoor warning sirens.

### **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING**

A [severe thunderstorm warning](#) is an urgent message that means a severe thunderstorm (containing hail at least dime size and/or winds in excess of 58 mph) is imminent or occurring.

DO NOT IGNORE severe thunderstorm warnings! These warnings give specific details as to what is expected and may cover a wide range of storms from dime size hail and 50 mph winds to destructive deadly storms producing softball size hail and 100 mph winds. And, severe thunderstorm warnings often precede tornado warnings, giving you even more advance notice that a dangerous storm is nearby.

### **SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT**

The NWS issues [severe weather statements](#) to update warnings. Statements provide critical new information on a warning, including spotter reports, updated radar analysis, the latest storm motion and expected hazards.

All of the services mentioned above are available on the NWS Norman website - [www.srh.noaa.gov/oun](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun) and on [NWS Weather Radio](#).

### **LOCAL STORM REPORT**

These [reports](#) include the latest severe weather reports received by the National Weather Service, and include the time, location and a description of what happened. Spotter reports are the primary source for local storm report information.

# September Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Aug	30	31	1 Sep	2	3	4
				7:30p RACES Training Net on 145.410		9:00a -1:00p <a href="#">2nd Anual Blood Drive Wal-Mart in Waxahachie</a>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				7:30p ECARC Information Net on 145.410		Red Oak Founder's Day Parade and info booth
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				7:30p <a href="#">ECARC Club Meeting</a>		Technician Licensing Class Lesson 1
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						<a href="#">Texas QSO Party Bardwell Lake</a>
26	27	28	29	30	1 Oct	2
<a href="#">Texas QSO Party Bardwell Lake</a>						