

WATS HAPPENINGS

Volume 6, Issue 4

Official Newsletter of Waco Amateur Television Society (WATS), Inc.

April 2001

WATS BIG TEST - APRIL 28

On Saturday, April 28, we will experience possibly the largest public running/walking event in Waco history. The Susan B. Komen "Race For The Cure" will have its first annual running in Waco to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer. The event organizers are expecting over 5000 runners! Yes, I said: over FIVE THOUSAND runners! This event will be about TWENTY TIMES LARGER than anything WATS has ever covered.

Despite the hugeness, WATS and HOTARC have agreed to support this event with essentially the same basic plan as for any other special event of this type: hams stationed around the course to report various information via FM voice and ATV pictures. Do you think our jobs will be the same as usual? No way!!! We must be ready! And we also can realize that this is a HUGE opportunity for the Clubs to gain some good publicity and really contribute to the success of this annual event. PLEASE plan to support WATS (it's your Club) in this endeavor. Please, gather up your transmitting equipment and antennas and go portable! Even if you haven't supported other events. Contact me via email (AC5CV@arrl.net) or phone (751-9024). I and others can help you!

A few facts: The event starts at Heritage Park, the new park in front of Waco's City Hall. The 1-mile walk/run starts at 8:15 am and the 5K run at 8:30. Your station must be in position and able to transmit by 8:00 am; so that means arriving at 7:30-7:45 am or so. Same as last event: we'll

FCC Tells L.A. City & County to Get Off 2.4 Gig!

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 10 ARLB010
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 15, 2001
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB010
ARLB010 FCC Denies LA County 2.4 GHz Application, Cancels Experimental Grant to City

Following objections from the ARRL, AMSAT and others, the FCC has turned down an application from Los Angeles County, California, for an experimental license permitting airborne microwave TV downlinks (TVDL) in the 2402-2448 MHz range. The FCC also canceled an experimental license grant to the City of Los Angeles to operate an identical TV downlink system in same band.

Amateurs have a primary domestic allocation at 2402-2417 MHz and a secondary allocation in the rest of the affected band.

"Experimental licenses are not substitutes for regular radiocommunication service licenses," said Charles Iseman, deputy chief of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Division in the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. OET issues all experimental licenses.

The ARRL, AMSAT and the Amateur Television Network had asked the FCC to deny the County's application. ARRL members Art McBride, KC6UQH, and Thomas O'Hara, W6ORG, also filed informal objections. The League, AMSAT and ATN also had objected to the City's experimental grant. The FCC gave the City until December 1 to terminate its operation but reserved the right to accelerate the cancellation date if interference occurs.

The LA County proposal, filed in August 1999, sought FCC authorization to develop a TVDL system on four 2.4 GHz channels for deployment aboard sheriff's and fire department airborne units. The FCC granted the City's WB2XEN experimental license based on a similar submittal.

In protesting the County's plan, the ARRL called the application a "foot in the door" toward gaining a permanent berth in the 2.4 GHz band. The County and the City already are authorized to operate TVDL systems under Part 90 rules in the 2.450-2.483.5 GHz band, but both told the FCC that they had experienced coordination and interference problems and sought the experimental TVDL authorization as a result.

In light of the denial and the cancellation, the FCC did not address potential interference issues raised by the objectors.

transmit vertically polarized on 439.25 MHz (cable channel 60). Plan now for ways to make your ATV pictures more interesting: signs, microphone, WATS t-shirts, We'll have a serious discussion about this big event at the April meeting, so PLEASE make plans to attend. And note our special meeting

this month: it's a FREE dinner and show-n-tell meeting at Dave Boehner's home starting around 6:00 pm or so. This can be a great event...for WATS! For you! Let's enjoy ATV to the max!!

-Follow The Map on Page 4-

Board of Directors Meeting

March 15, 2001

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the President. Present were:

David Bush, KC5UOZ, President
Horace Bushnell, W5TAH, Secretary-Treasurer
Norris Martin, KB5SLI, Board Member
John Gafford, N5XAK, Board Member
John Chamberlain, AC5CV, Board Member
Justin Martin, KC5KQL, Web Master and Visitor

January Board Minutes, as published in the February WATS Happenings were approved on motion by John Chamberlain and second by Norris Martin.

Treasurer's reports for January and February were approved on motion by Horace Bushnell and second by John Gafford.

Amendment Three to the bylaws, which had been published twice, attached to February and March issues of WATS Happenings, was presented to the Board by John Gafford. Amendment Three was approved on motion by Horace Bushnell and second by John Gafford. This amendment will be presented at the Members Meeting for ratification.

Horace Bushnell presented a revised Petition for Membership form intended to incorporate changes to conform to the approved Amendment Three. Some suggestions for changes in the form were voiced, and Horace will incorporate those changes in the revised form.

Horace Bushnell moved for reimbursement of \$7.25 for labels and \$6.80 for stamps. Motion was seconded by John Gafford and reimbursement was approved.

Horace Bushnell proposed that all WATS equipment be inventoried, marked with an identifying number and entered into an inventory book for control purposes. The record would include date of acquisition, as well as source and location. The property book would be maintained by the Secretary. On motion by Horace and second by John Gafford, action was approved.

Horace Bushnell began a discussion regarding the weather radar equipment installed at Channel 25, and recommended the equipment be removed, and retained for other future use. On motion by Horace Bushnell and second by John Chamberlain, removal of the equipment was approved.

John Chamberlain began a discussion of our web page, and offered to take some responsibility to assist Justin Martin in web page maintenance. His offer was enthusiastically accepted.

On motion by John Gafford, Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Horace Bushnell, W5TAH
Secretary-Treasurer

Meeting of Members

March 15, 2001

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by the President.

Present were:

David Bush, KC5UOZ, President
Horace Bushnell, W5TAH, Secretary-Treasurer
Norris Martin, KB5SLI, Board Member
John Gafford, N5XAK, Board Member
John Chamberlain, AC5CV, Board Member
Justin Martin, KC5KQL, Web Master and Visitor
Larry Bush, W5NCD
Mike Ross, N5MVL
Marshall Mabry, KD5IQ

On motion by John Chamberlain and second by Horace Bushnell, Minutes for the February Meeting of Members were approved as published in the WATS Happenings March issue.

Amendment Three to the bylaws as approved by the Board, was presented to the membership present for ratification. On motion by John Gafford and second by Mike Ross, Amendment Three was ratified.

David Bush, President, informed the members present of Board action regarding establishment of the Property Record Book and decision to remove the weather radar equipment from Channel 25.

David Bush began a discussion of our participation in the MS Walk on March 24, 2001. David made a proposal to include slow scan TV (SSTV) for this event, but after much discussion, it was decided that we would not try to have slow scan for this event. Horace Bushnell discussed frequencies to be used that would not interfere with ATV operations. John Chamberlain discussed the plan route, and will have assignments ready for the participants at the HOTARC trailer on the 24th.

Meeting was adjourned on motion by John Gafford for the program.

Horace Bushnell showed a new miniature TV camera available from PC Electronics. Larry Bush showed a mobile mount he had designed and constructed for use in his vehicle together with the associated small camera and other equipment for a mobile slow-scan TV setup.

Horace Bushnell, W5TAH

NOTICE!

**The April 19 meetings will be at 6:00 PM
and will be at the home of Dave Boehner,
K5HOT, at 3071 Rockbridge Road.
Free Burgers & the Trimmings. You Do
NOT want to miss this meeting!**

COMPUTERS MADE "SYMPL"

by John Gafford, N5XAK

TweakUI is a windows utility written by some otherwise idle byte pushers in Redmond WA. For some time, it was not supported by Microsoft, but today it is. It works in all versions of Windows (95, 98, ME) and can be downloaded from their web site at www.microsoft.com/windowsme/guide/tweakui.exe. Tweakui.exe is a self-extracting program which, when executed, dumps some files into your c:\windows\temp directory. After executing the file, go to this directory and right-click on the file tweakui.inf. You can use Windows Explorer to get to this file. A drop-down menu will appear, and one of the choices will be "install". Click on this, and an icon will be installed on your control panel labeled "Tweak UI". Go to your Control Panel and double-click on the icon to see a set of tabs with everything from "Mouse" to "New". For help on the tabs, click the ? in the upper right-hand corner then click an item on a tab to get an explanation of what it does. Most tabs also have some explanation of the uses thereon. As an example, click the "Boot" tab, and under "Boot menu" put a check mark in the "Always show boot menu" box. Set the time duration setting to your choice. The next time you start your computer, the boot menu you see when you hold down the F10 key (Windows 95) or the Ctrl key (Windows 98) will appear on your screen. Now, if for some reason you need to start your machine in DOS mode, or want to one-step the boot activity (troubleshooting), just choose the action you want from the boot menu. You can explore the other tabs, but be careful to not change something you don't want to change. This is just one example of a myriad of features in the Windows operating systems that are not very well

documented. Next month I will tell you about some "Easter Eggs" and how to find them.

73, N5XAK

Digital Television Stations On The Air

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) says that as of March 13, 2001, there were 190 digital television stations on the air.

For your information, the following Texas stations are listed as on the air:

<u>Austin</u>	<u>HDTV Channel</u>	<u>NTSC CH</u>
KXAN	21	36
<u>Dallas</u>		
WFAA	9	8
FDFW	35	4
KXAS	41	5
KTVT	19	11
KTXA	18	21
KDAF	32	33
KERA	14	13
<u>Houston</u>		
KHOU	31	11
KPRC	35	2
KRIV	27	26
KTRK	32	13

MS-WALK for 2001

Well, to plan ahead and see what we might expect, John Chamberlain, (AC5CV) and Horace Bushnell, (W5TAH) packed up their ATV equipment and went to downtown Waco Friday afternoon for tests. Results were gratifying. 10 Watts of ATV will penetrate those buildings pretty well. With one 10 element and one 6 element beam antenna no higher than about 12 feet, signals were about P4 on University Drive, coming from 18 blocks away, at 18th and Franklin Ave. Tests were made at each point where transmitters were expected to be during the MS-Walk. Both went home satisfied we could cover the course.

Only when we see the tape made at the HOTARC trailer by David, KC5UOZ, will we know if we should be satisfied with the quality of our video during the MS-Walk. Should we be satisfied with anything less than the best? Should we not always strive for higher quality video and sound? How about you? Why not try for higher quality in what we are doing? Let's make some super video before we

Financial Status as of 31 March 2001

Balance of Bank account as of 28 February 2001	\$878.75
Credits:	
Deposit, 3/2/01	\$24.00
Deposit, 3/7/01	48.00
Debits:	
Check #357	\$ 7.25
Check #358	\$ 6.80

Balance as of 31 March 2001

\$936.70*

*See note #2

Additional information:

- (1) Checks outstanding \$ 1.00 (Refund to Boehner)
- (2) This amount includes donations of \$79.00 by members and earmarked for Application to IRS for Recognition as a Tax-Exempt Non-Profit organization. Please see Receipts # 450710, 450712 and 450713.

Horace Bushnell,
Treasurer

WATS Happenings is the official newsletter of Waco Amateur Television Society (WATS), Inc., a non-profit corporation, chartered by the State of Texas, with registered office at 3804 N. 21A St., Waco, Texas. Use of information contained herein is permissible, provided proper credit is given to the source. Edited and Published by Horace Bushnell, W5TAH.

WATS Officers for the Year 2001

President
Secretary-Treasurer
Director
Director
Director

David Bush, KC5UOZ
Horace Bushnell, W5TAH
John Chamberlain, AC5CV
John Gafford, N5XAK
Norris Martin, KB5SLI

Retires Jan. 2002
Retires Jan. 2002
Retires Jan. 2004
Retires Jan. 2003
Retires Jan. 2002

K5HOT: 3071 Rockbridge



Follow US84 West of Woodway to the first intersection past Speegleville Road to Bosque Lane. Turn right on Bosque Lane. 3071

Former Associates Now Full Members

Amendment Three to the WATS bylaws passed unanimously during the March meeting. Which means, among other things, all members are now Full Members, with no additional dues until January 1, 2002. All are now eligible to vote and hold office.

Additionally, anyone wishing to become a member may do so without having to live in McLennan County or own transmitting or receiving equipment. All one needs is a warm body and a Technician grade FCC license or higher. Actually, a warm body is not spelled out as a requirement.

FOR SALE

I have an all band (10-80) Gap, Titan DX vertical for sale for \$290.00. It is new and in perfect condition.

David Boehner, K5HOT
K5HOT@hotmail.com
254 848-5891

FOR SALE

MFJ Model 4035MV Power Supply. Regulated, adjustable, 30 Amp., 35 Amp surge. Fully metered. Like new. Paid \$139.95. Will take \$100.00.

Horace Bushnell, W5TAH
W5TAH@aol.com
254 753-5452

LATE NEWS

Waco will soon have HDTV!

A little bird just told me that **KWTX**, our local CBS outlet will be transmitting HDTV around the middle of May. Expect the other local stations to be following closely behind.

WARNING!

Planning on buying a new TV? In about two (2) years all NTSC stations will go off the air. Yes, **OFF THE AIR**. I am not sure of the effective date. You want to buy a new set for it to become useless in two years? Better think about it.

Some - not all - sets on the market will be useful with a set top box after NTSC goes off. Better consider (1) resolution, (2) screen format, S-video and A/V in.

.....W5TAH

Now, membership is quite easy to obtain. If you know of a prospect, invite him/her to the next meeting and we will gladly hand your friend a petition. ◇

<WANTED>

A few e-mail addresses have been changed, so are we being told. How about yours? Please send in your correct e-mail address ASAP so we can correct the database in preparation for putting out a new directory. Without **your** help we can't

Bring a Friend Week

Bring a friend to the next meeting. How else will we gain members? Invite a fellow ham who is not presently a member. **Do it now!**