

WATS HAPPENINGS

Volume 6, Issue 5

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

May 2001

April Was A Good Month

From our President—

April was a very special month for WATS members. We had our meeting at the home of **Dave Boehner K5HOT** in Hidden Valley (Newly annexed portion of Waco, Texas, next to the McGregor Municipal Airport). Hamburgers with all the trimmings and drinks were enjoyed by all. Then we were treated by Dave to a show-and-tell of his hobbies. Dave seems to have a theme for his hobbies: the word “digital” comes to mind. His “Home Theater Room” is one to drool over: wide screen HDTV with HTX and Dolby Stereo Surround System—it’s just like going to a Hollywood theater, but right in his home! Then Dave took us upstairs to see his ham shack, or should I say, “ham studio.” Dave is into real high fidelity audio from HF—yes, the HF radio band. Using superb sound processing and equalization equipment, and a very high-end, studio-quality microphone, he enjoys HF QSOs that sound great: no hiss, no pop—the best audio you can possibly get from HF. He can also record his ham contacts digitally on CD and then replay them back later through studio quality speakers. Thanks, Dave, for the great hamburgers, the show-and-tell, and for the use of your home for our meeting.

The “Race for the Cure” special event was very successful for WATS and HOTARC. About 5,000 people took part in the 1-mile and 5 km events. HOTARC provided the voice communications along the route and WATS provided TV video/audio.

Crossband Repeater

During the past months much time has been spent trying to figure out how to better cover these local special events with ATV coverage. The ATVers of southern California have already found out how to do it. They have been covering the Rose Bowl festivities, especially the Parade of Roses, for a number of years and have very successful at it.

While corresponding via e-mail with **Tom O’Hara (W6ORG)** during the first week of April, he sent me the picture to the right, which is from an article he is in the process of writing. Here he is adjusting the tuning on his cross-band portable repeater which he uses during special events. This is a unit that may delivered to a remote location and left unattended. He told me a little about his repeater but I will remain mute and let you read it when you see his finished article. I suspect it will be published in Amateur Television Quarterly (ATVQ), published by Harlan Technologies. For those who may not know, ATVQ is “THEE” ATV publication all ATVers should subscribe to. Tom is a regular supplier of good ATV articles for ATVQ. Harlan Technologies, 5931 Alma Dr., Rockford, Illinois 61108. Send them \$18.00 and they’ll send you their mag for a year. Yes, it has some good stuff advertised in it too. And, no, we don’t get paid for ads like this. We just like to help good guys.



Photo by W6ORG. Used by permission.

W5TAH, **AC5CV**, and **KC5KQL** sent video back to the **HOTARC** trailer and I (**KC5UOZ**) served as ATV Net Control—running my Cam-Eye atop the trailer and videotaping the signals from ATV. A television monitor was placed outside the trailer to enable bystanders to watch as we covered the event. I personally witnessed several runners and family members watching our video, who enjoyed and appreciated it very much.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Please note:
There will be
NO MEETINGS
of WATS
During the Month
of
MAY, 2001

(A Good Month - conclusion)

The videotape needs to be edited down from 2 hours to about 15 or 20 minutes. Thanks, guys, for all the work and help to make this happen, and a special thanks to AC5CV for working on these events giving us maps and coordinating us all.

That's it for now. **We will not have a meeting this month**, in part because AC5CV, W5NCD, and I will be on the road to Dayton. We hope to bring back lots of goodies and news to share about ATV and SSTV. In the meantime, we all need to be thinking and talking about what we can do for Field Day on June 23—just two days after our June meeting!

73 de David, KC5UOZ
WATS President

The WxRad Unit

The Wxrad unit has now been removed from KXXV-TV and is awaiting a new mission. The antennas are still on the KXXV studio tower, waiting for their crew to go up and replace a rotator, at which time they will make a side trip and remove our antennas.

So, what will the WxRad unit become? The basis for a replacement ATV repeater? A relay between Waco and Temple? Perhaps a cross-band repeater, someday? What ideas do you have? We have a nicely working beginning for something.

The WxRad unit is described as follows: One rf tight box contains a 10 Watt NTSC television transmitter with sub-carrier sound. Next to it is a module containing a voice-operated relay board, an ELK identification board and a controller board. Alongside these is a programable Bearcat scanner and under it all is a power supply. All of this is mounted on a standard 19" panel, 12" high.

Your Video Collection

What are your tapes doing these days? If your video tapes are like mine, they are sitting on the shelf, collecting dust. Who knows if they will ever be edited?

I don't look forward to the task of editing about 100 Hi8 tapes.

While visiting the studios of KXXV, the Waco Channel 25 ABC outlet the other day I noticed how crowded they were. Equipment was everywhere! One could hardly find a path to walk through. I assumed they might be getting ready for a switch to HDTV, since that seems to be the way to go these days. But no, that was not the case.

All this had to do with editing. In the past, all news was shot on tape and edited while on tape. No more! Now there are news cameras that can capture the news on tape in a digital format, which can be quickly transferred to a Hard Drive at the studio and edited easily and quickly without all the rolling tape back and forth, looking for the desired scenes.

A better understanding of this type of editing can be obtained by turning to page #12 of the Spring issue of ATVQ and reading "Easy, Creative, Digital Video Editing In YOUR Own Home!", by Gene Harlan - WB9MMM - publisher of ATVQ. After reading Mr. Harlan's article, perhaps you will be moved to blow the dust off your assortment of tapes and make a movie. Or two. After buying more equipment!

COMPUTERS MADE 'SYMPL'

by John Gafford, N5XAK

Last month I promised you "Easter Eggs". What are easter eggs? They are small bits of code hidden in a program or operating system, and may be revealed by execution of a specific series of key strokes. They may consist of a list of contributing programmers, or some other bits of information or humor of the programmer.

To find eggs on the internet, launch the webcrawler search engine, and type "Easter Eggs" in the search box (including the quotes) and click search. An astounding list of sites will appear. Many of the sites will relate to conventional Easter eggs, but a study of the titles will indicate those that pertain to hidden computer codes and will include specific instructions on how to find the egg. You might also try other search engines such as Yahoo or Excite.

Go surfing and have fun. but a word of caution is offered. Some sites will give warnings, and these should be heeded. For example, one site recommends saving your work before you try the egg as you may have a hangup and may have to reboot the computer.

On another subject, I am running a little dry on computer subjects to be included in this column. My self-starter is going lame. So, it would help if you have a specific question or problem, send an e-mail to jgafford@clearsource.net and I will try to respond in my next column.

Until next time, 73,

**Any HAM can talk.
HAMS need to be
SEEN!**

Minutes of the Board of Directors

April 19, 2001

Meeting was held at the home of David Boehner, K5HOT who also hosted the Members' meeting. The Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by the President.

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

March Board Minutes, as published in the WATS Happenings were approved on motion by John Gafford and seconded by Horace Bushnell.

Treasurer's reports for March was approved on motion by Horace Bushnell and seconded by John Chamberlain.

Horace Bushnell presented a Petition for Membership from Leon Cheney, K5ZZM. The petition was accepted by the Board.

Horace Bushnell asked for reimbursement of one check in the amount of \$6.80 for postage. Seconded by John Gafford, reimbursement was approved.

John Chamberlain made a motion to give a donation to David Boehner a check for \$20.00 to \$30.00 for his expenses for food. Motion was seconded by Horace Bushnell. Motion passed. The Treasurer will prepare the check when advised by the president as to the amount.

Horace Bushnell made a motion that a Technical Committee be appointed to discuss and study technical matters as they pertain to WATS equipment and

WATS equipment needs now and in the future and make recommendations to the Board as deemed advisable. Motion was seconded by John Gafford, and passed. **No action was taken to make any appointments thereto.**

John Chamberlain requested reimbursement of \$17.72 for food items purchased for the Members' meeting to follow. On motion by Horace Bushnell and seconded by Norris Martin, request was approved.

A discussion of the upcoming MS walk was conducted, after which the Board meeting was adjourned.

Horace Bushnell, W5TAH
Secretary-Treasurer

WATS Members Meeting

No formal Members meeting was conducted. A hamburger meal was provided by David, with trimmings furnished by WATS, followed up by a demonstration of his HDTV installation, and included a look at DVD and digital audio. He then showed to group his ham station, and demonstrated a number of the ham activities he was engaged in.

Horace Bushnell, W5TAH
Secretary-Treasurer

**What Used Equipment
Do You Need To Buy?
Want Ads by HAMS
cost NOTHING here.
Call your editor. He'll help.**

Financial Status as of 30 April 2001

Bank Balance as of 31 March 2001	\$936.70
Credits: None	
Debits: Check #359	6.80
Balance as of 30 April 2001	\$929.90*

*Note: This the last time reporting 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.

Those members wishing to seek a refund should contact a Director and make such desire known.

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



Meet James Harris, III
KD5FKY

James Harris, KD5FKY, lives at 4004 N. 24th St., in Waco, TX 76708. He is Program Director for Christian Radio Station KBBW in Waco. That's 1010 on the AM dial. James is active in the Texas State Guard.

James owns equipment to operate on HF, VHF, and UHF. His modes of operation are Digital PSK, Slow Scan TV (SSTV), has an HT and mobile for 2 meters. He is an Extra Class Ham. Presently watching others on ATV, he expects to change that to "being" seen on ATV in the not too distant future.

We are happy to have his petition for membership in Waco Amateur Television Society.



Meet Jimmie Boyd
KC5PND

Jimmie Boyd, KC5PND, lives at 142 Lonely Pine, Waco, TX 76708. Jimmie works for China Spring Independent School District as a School Bus driver, one of the most hair raising jobs around. Jimmie is a likable person

Jimmie is active on HF, 144 and 440 MHz. He is a General Class Ham and is a "watcher" of ATV. He has just recently heard about the ATV part of Ham radio.

Jimmie is active in the Texas State Guard and has petitioned for membership in WATS. Both Jimmie and James Harris, III will be considered by the WATS Board at the **June** meeting.



Leon Cheney, K5ZZM

Leon Cheney, K5ZZM, lives at 2900 Columbus, Waco, TX 76710. He retired from the U. S. Marshall Service in 1981. Leon is licensed by the State of Texas as a Private Investigator and his business is the Legal Support Services of Texas. He's a nice guy who can be a pretty tough guy. Your editor knows Leon is a dogged investigator (meaning he really hangs in there!). If you need an investigator, this one can do the job!

James has equipment for HF, UHF and some mode I can't read on his application. He is an Extra Class Ham. At present he watches WATS' ATV repeater and hopes to get into ATV full bore soon.

Leon is active in the Texas State Guard in his spare time. We fully expect to see his face on ATV soon!

We welcome you, Leon, to the ranks of Waco Amateur Television Society and we are willing to do whatever we can to get you started in (on) ATV.

The e-mail address for Leon Cheney is:
lcheney@earthlink.net

NOTICE

There Will Be NO WATS MEETINGS IN MAY