



May 2002

## Meeting Highlights

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

April's meeting was called to order by President John Dyer, AE5B, at 1912hrs on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Club Secretary Randy Robinson, N5JZH, then read the minutes from the March meeting.

Club Treasurer Peg Richard, KA4PA, then read the Treasurer's Report, which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. She also gave us a Hamfest (4, 5 May) report. She has made flyers for distribution at various places, such as other clubs' Hamfests. So far, we have 27 door prizes. She reminded everyone that Randy will need help at the concession stand during the Hamfest.

Peg also gave us a brief update on the health of a couple of our members. Her husband, Jim (K1UQI), is now up and around, but didn't make the club meeting because of other responsibilities. Judy Smith, KC5THH, who is still waiting for a liver transplant, has had some anemia issues of late, requiring two blood transfusions a week; they've put her on some medication that should help, but in the meanwhile it has created some mental confusion for her. Judy told Peg that "All day I've wondered who I am." I understand that her body should adjust to the new meds, and she should soon regain clear thinking. Unless her strength improves, she won't be making it to the Hamfest, because she'll need all her strength for the surgery at a moment's notice if a liver becomes available.

Tony Tillman (K5OOL) gave us a web page report. He's working on converting the site to use frames, and to use less graphics, so that the whole site will be speedier and more responsive. Function and content over flashy – a good thing in my opinion.

Randy reported that the freebie antenna that came with KTAB's generous donation of tower space for our .96 repeater has problems and will need to be replaced. Plans are to bring down our .96 antenna from its previous home on the KGNZ tower and move it to the tower at the new site. Also, the .96 now has both a tone input and a tone output (both at 146.2 Mhz) so you can configure your .96 frequency to ignore any transmissions on .96 that are not originating from our repeater.

The Trent antenna site is still available, and the idea is being tossed around of putting a West Texas Connection link at that location. If anyone is interested in pursuing this, please contact Randy.

Randy also read a "Thank You" letter from Susan Jerrod, for the club's participation in the Abilene Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride. The Bike Race next year will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Randy discussed possibilities for this year's Field Day. Suggestions have been made to move it to a more public place, to increase our exposure. Some ideas were at one of the city parks or one of the local schools. Peg mentioned that a city park can't be reserved, and we can't rope off areas which would be needed to prevent people from running into tower guy wires & etc. She also mentioned that the "playground" has been updated at the State School, and is now being actively promoted as a public site, so that might in and of itself increase our exposure to the public if we stay out there. An idea that seemed to resonate strongly with many was to move to Taylor Elementary, which already has a tower (which is not dedicated to Field Day, so it's eligible for our use according to FD rules), would be more visible and curiously attractive to a larger segment of the public, and would provide electricity and rain

protection and possibly air conditioning. According to FD rules, only the electricity used for running the radios and computers generating transmissions must be "emergency power". Randy is going to check further into this.

It was announced that the Belton Hamfest is the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March, and that a Boy Scout and Ham function is the following weekend in San Angelo.

## Club Officers Visit San Angelo Club

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

Thursday night, the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, President John Dyer (AE5B), V.P Kent West (KC5ENO), and Secretary Randy Robinson(N5JZH), along with John's YL Karla (K5RLA) made a trip to San Angelo to visit the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club's meeting.

While there, they passed out flyers for the Key City Amateur Radio Club's Hamfest, coming up on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

## Hamfest a Success!

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

The 2002 Key City Amateur Radio Club's annual Hamfest has come and gone. It was a great weekend. It's too early yet to report on the financial aspects. As a couple of people pointed out, the noise level of people talking, etc, was higher longer in the day this year than last, indicating that more people were staying around longer this year.

We also had a good test session on Saturday. We had several people become new hams and had several upgrades. Hope to see you at next year's Hamfest. In the meanwhile, get ready for Field Day.

*There were 2 Irishmen walking along looking for jobs, when they came across a sign saying:*

**TREE FELLERS WANTED**

*"Ohhh, to be sure, too be sure!" said one. "What a shame there are only the two of us!"*

## Field Day, Coming Up

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

The 2002 Field Day is fast approaching. Being as it's always conducted on the fourth full weekend in June, this year's dates are June 22-23. More details will be forthcoming. Be sure to attend the May KCARC meeting to be in on any related discussion.

## VE Test Session Results at Hamfest

*Ron Harden,*

At the test session of the KCARC Hamfest, we had several who passed their test and several who upgraded. These are:

### Technicians:

Alton Williams.....Hamlin, Tx  
Austin Hendricks.....Sweetwater, Tx  
Chad Goodman.....Blackwell, Tx  
Richard Whitworth with HF.....Blackwell, Tx  
Aaron Maxwell.....Abilene, Tx  
Timothy Walker.....Abilene, Tx  
Jeffrey Beers.....Abilene, Tx  
Alice Spier.....Abilene, Tx

### Upgrade to General:

Robert Lane.....Strawn, Tx  
Russell McDonald.....Abilene, Tx

### Upgrade to Extra:

Robert Feller.....San Angelo, Tx  
Robert Heiser.....San Angelo, Tx  
Keith Thomason.....Winters, Tx

### Those passing Element 3:

Bob Freeman.....San Angelo, Tx  
Barry Ransberger.....Coleman, Tx  
Jimmy Parrigan.....Cisco, Tx

Congrats are in order to these new and upgraded Hams. My personal thanks to the VE team for the time spent in doing paper work instead of getting to wander around the tables. I felt the session went extremely smooth this year with these folks help. These are:

Jake Mullins.....KC5GZP  
Ray Schulze.....N5SR  
R.L. Howard.....WC5E  
Peggy Richard.....KA5UPA  
William Floyd.....KK5XJ  
Jim Richard.....K1UQI

Next test session is June 1, at Berry Lane Baptist Church, 1:00 p.m.

## Club Meeting!

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

Remember to attend the Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting, Monday, 13 May, at the city library.

## A Free, Cross-Platform Word Processor

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

Last month I mentioned OpenOffice.org/Star Office (<http://www.openoffice.org> & <http://www.staroffice.org>, respectively), free office suites similar to Microsoft Office, but without the proprietary and virus-prone file formats. If you only need a word processor rather than a full-featured office suite, you might want to take a look at Abiword.

Abiword is a cross-platform (Mac OS/X, Windows, Unix/Linux, QNX, BeOS) word processor. It aims to be a replacement for MS-Word, but to be easily ported to any operating system. It has an open file format, so that organizations won't get stuck in the upgrade cycle the way they have with proprietary products. It's also small (4.3MB download for the Windows version) and fast. Functionality can be extended with plugins, and it has great Internationalization support.

For a newsletter like this one, I need the power of OpenOffice.org, but for general business letters, memos, etc, or to open a document that's in WordPerfect format, I usually use Abiword.

You can read more about Abiword and find the download links at <http://www.abisource.com>.

## Key City Amateur Radio Club Income & Expense Report, 8 April 2002

### Regular Account:

Balance Forward.....	\$ 778.79
Income Feb/Mar.....	300.00
Expenses (Feb/Mar).....	175.68
Balance on Hand.....	903.11

### Hamfest Account:

Balance Forward.....	1,967.74
Expense.....	870.46
Balance On Hand.....	1,097.28

Amount Needed to Balance:..... 2,000.39

### Total Amount on Hand:

Checking.....	1,948.51
Currency.....	50.00
Coins.....	1.88
TOTAL.....	\$ 2,000.39

### \*\* Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)

Checking Service Fee (Feb/Mar).....	30.00
Stamps.....	34.00
Southwestern Bell (Mar).....	18.59
Southwestern Bell (Apr).....	18.59
W5YI Renewal.....	24.50
Coronado Nursing Center/Dowdle.....	50.00

TOTAL..... 175.68

Peg Richard, KA4UPA, Treasurer, KCARC

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