



KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 2003

October Meeting Highlights

Kent West, KC5ENO

Kent West (KC5ENO) called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

As meeting minutes were not available, they were not read.

It was intended to have nominations for the 2004 club officers, but we needed a quorum of 1/5 of the club members present, which we did not have. Accordingly, we've scheduled to have club nominations at the November meeting. Be sure to attend.

Peg Richard (KA4UPA) then read the Treasurer's Report. A surprise was that our phone bill for the 146.76 phone patch increased by \$8/month, bringing the monthly bill to about \$31. John Dyer (AE5B) questioned the value of the little-used phone patch since it's costing the club over \$360 a year. There was some discussion about that and it was decided that next month we'll hold a vote as to whether we wish to continue having a phone patch or to save the money. If you have any opinion on the matter, be sure to attend the November meeting.

It was announced that the Christmas Dinner will be held on December 5th this year at the ACU campus. The cost per person is \$14.50; it was stated that other caterers in the area offer similar pricing, but not with the quality of food. This year we need to have firm numbers as to who's attending, so reservations must be made by the Friday before the dinner.

Peg announced that the next VE test

session will be at 1pm on November 1st at the Berry Lane Baptist Church building. This will be the last VE test session until January.

Having no further business to conduct, the club adjourned at 7:12pm on a motion made by Peg.

Texas State ARES Net

by Bob C. Ward, WA5ROE and submitted by John Dyer, AE5B

The TX State ARES Net meets every Mon. night at 7:30 PM following the TX traffic net on 3873.

The format of the net has changed making it much easier and quicker for those of us from WTX to check in and be on our way. The net is called by section with NTX and WTX being called first. STX is called last and it is called by district. We will have to be on at the start of the net as there are not many NTX stations checking in at this time.

I try to check in when my schedule permits. The net is open for all ARES members so encourage all of your members to listen and check in. Let's show the y'l's and om from STX that we are alive and active in WTX.

Club Meeting!

Kent West, KC5ENO

Remember to attend the Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting, Monday, 10 November, at 7pm on the second floor of the city library.

West Texas Section News

John Dyer, AE5B

Lots of things happening in West Texas this month.

Our congratulations to Byrl "Tex" Burdick, W5BQU, of El Paso on his 103rd birthday. Look for Tex almost every day on or about 21.314 Mhz. WB5QLR operated the EL Paso ARC club station W5ES in the annual Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air. Tom introduced 8 Boy Scouts to amateur radio. I spent an hour on 20 meters working several JOTA stations and it was a lot of fun. Get on the air next year and help out the hams that are demonstrating ham radio to the youngsters.

News from the Texas Panhandle area. N5LUL has his 6 meter repeater back on the air and is getting good reports. It is on the KVII-TV tower. Echo Link is becoming very popular on the Plainview club repeater. They are also discussing holding a local net on their repeater. Last month I mistakenly listed WN5GDV as the Plainview ARC Secretary. Actually Bill is the club's VP and had served in that office for several terms. The Panhandle ARC is planning a campout in Palo Duro Canyon on October 25-26. They will have HF and VHF stations operating. Propagation may be a little tough down in the canyon. Maybe they need to try one of the satellites? Have you heard of POTROCKS? It was a new one for me. POTROCKS stands for the Panhandle of Texas Rocketry So-

ciety. Several Panhandle area hams are involved with the group. Rockets and ham radio bring up thoughts of telemetry, aprs, and things like that. Who says that ham radio is boring?

I've also heard by the grapevine that K5IS and others are planning a balloon launch from Booker at 10:00 AM Oct. 25. There will be a beacon on 28.322, APRS on 144.39, and FSTV on 439.25. The North Texas Balloon Project launch last August was heard by hams in West Texas and New Mexico on 2 meters. Booker is in the far northeastern panhandle. Point your beams the N/E and listen for the beacon.

Eleven members of the Big Bend ARC provided communication support for the "Marathon to Marathon" event this month. Over 350 tactical messages were passed using 4 vhf repeaters. The Big Bend ARC also provided communications for safety and support for the Ft. Davis Cyclefest last month. BBARC member K0TH, Tom Hobby, 73 years young completed the 76 mile course in 6.5 hours.

Midland hams assisted with the John Foster West Texas Open Road Race on October, 19th. Next month I will have more information on the participants.

The annual Simulated Emergency Test was also in October. If your group participated in the SET please, send me a copy of your report.

The FCC and your Official Observers are wrapping up a six month project aimed at identifying illegal operation on 10 meters by trucking companies, businesses and other individuals. Based on the findings of the project, the FCC intends to devote additional resources in problem areas of the country. Another area being examined is HF operation by hams without HF privileges. I continue to receive reports of Technician stations in our section operating on the HF bands.

Field Day 2004 Results

Field day results are posted on the ARRL Website and the Big Bend ARC/K5FD again took "Top Honors" in our section with 8180 points. Run-

ner-up and gaining fast was the Midland ARC/W5QGG with 5624 points. I also want to commend the Big Bend and Lubbock groups for activating EOC stations in FD2004. Operating an hf station in the rf-unfriendly environment of an EOC is a learning experience. The KM5WB and KA5NJA operations were both from EOC locations. The folks at the Sun City ARC/K5WPH topped everyone in our section by getting a picture of their operation in the web version of the FD2004 report. We will find out when the November issue of QST arrives, if they made the final cut for the magazine. Hope so.

Call Score Category QSOs Participants

1 K5FD 8,180 2A 2,463 29 Big Bend ARC
2 W5QGG 5,624 2A 1,334 22 Midland (WTX) ARC
3 K5WPH 2,906 3E 1,226 35 Sun City ARS
4 W5ZO 2,418 1B1 607 1 Amarillo
5 W5QX 2,180 2A 640 41 San Angelo ARC
6 K5QP 1,718 3A 548 30 Key City ARC
7 W5ES 1,536 2E 766 50 El Paso ARS
8 KA5NJA 822 1F 211 4 Big Bend ARC #2 EOC
9 KU5S 314 1D 157 1 Farwell
10 KM5WB 284 1F 92 10 Lubbock
11 N0WY 82 1C 41 1 Mobile

News from WTX SEC WA5ROE

The TX State ARES Net meets every Mon. night at 7:30 PM following the Tx Traffic Net on 3873. The format of the net has changed making it much easier and quicker for those of us from WTX to check in and be on our way. The net is called by section with NTX and WTX being called first. STX is called last and it is called by district. We will have to be on at the start of the net as there are not many NTX stations checking in at this time.

SM note: Why do you need to check into the Texas ARES net? In

case of an emergency activation, official disaster and health-and-welfare traffic into and out of West Texas will be moved on 40/75 meters. Do you know for sure that your station will be able to function effectively on those bands in case of an emergency? When I became SM, I discovered that my great 80 meter CW antenna was not so great on 75 phone. It does little good to have an antenna strung across the backyard if the swr is so bad that your fancy whiz bang do-everything radio cuts your power back to a couple of watts. QRP is fun but not in an emergency. If you need to talk to your neighbor, just shout across the back fence. If you need to talk to the Austin EOC or the net control (who may be calling the net from New Orleans because of propagation), make sure you have an antenna that works. Check into the ARES net occasionally and make sure everything is working. It is also a great help to Bob and myself to know who may be available.

September ARES News from WA5ROE

Total Number of ARES members: 67

Number of ARES nets active: 3

Number with NTS liaison: 0

DECs/ECs reporting:
N5LRH,N5DO,AE5B,KB5HPT,N5D LX

Number of drills,tests,and training sessions: 9

Number of public service events: 1

Number of emergency operations: 1

Number of ARES operations: 6

Number of man hours: 91

From WA5ROE's report listed above, it is apparent that a lot of our public service work is not being reported. Please find the time to send Bob one email a month describing

local activity in your area. One email a month takes very little time and it takes those numbers to impress the powers in Washington. By not reporting our activities, we are only hurting ourselves. If you can help in your area or if you need help in reporting local activity, contact either WA5ROE or AE5B.

West Texas September Net Reports

Name/sessions/checkins

Big Bend Emergency Net: 4/106

Silent Key Report

Terry Cox, W5INJ/ex-WA5INJ

Article on Terry emailed to all WTX member subscribers earlier.

Coming Events

Dec 6 Skywarn Recognition Day

Feb 28 El Paso ARC ARRL Hamfest
[_http://www.qsl.net/w5es_](http://www.qsl.net/w5es_)

Feb 28 NWS Skywarn Training Session Abilene

Jun 18/19 West Gulf Division Convention/HamCom

Club Christmas Meetings

Dec 2 Plainview ARC

Dec 4 Panhandle ARC

Dec 5 Key City ARC

Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report October 13, 2003

<i>Regular Account:</i>	Balance Forward	\$484.94
	Expenses	397.34
	Balance on Hand	87.60
<i>Repeater Account</i>	Balance on Hand	64.00
<i>Hamfest Account:</i>	Balance on Hand	1,291.07
Amount Needed to Balance		1,442.67
Total Amount on Hand:		
	Checking	1,431.54
	Cash	10.00
	Coins	1.13
	Total	\$1,442.67
** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)		
	Checking Service Fee (Sept)	15.00
	Southwestern Bell (Oct)	31.07
	Postage Aug/Oct	26.27
	Liability Insurance Premium	325.00
	Total	397.34

Peggy A. Richard, KA4UPA
 Treasurer, Key City Amateur Radio Club

Tidbits

Kent West, KC5ENO

- You know by now that the venerable internet suite Netscape is really Mozilla "under the hood". Now that Mozilla has caught up to and surpassed Internet Explorer, the Mozilla team is breaking up the suite into component pieces to make the products more stable, extensible, secure, and maintainable. The browser piece is known as Firebird, and the email client is known as Thunderbird. With spam filtering and pop-up blocking and tabbed browsing and

- autoscrolling and thread viewing and object nuking and cross-platform support (Windows, Mac OS/X, and Linux), Firebird and Mozilla are today's toys for the geek in your life. Available at no cost from <http://www.mozilla.org>.
- There are rumours that the next version of Microsoft's gaming console, the Xbox, may be based on IBM's PowerPC chip rather than Intel's Pentium line. The PowerPC is the same chip used in the newest Apple Macintosh, the G5. It looks like the big competitors in the CPU biz over the next few years might be Intel, IBM, and AMD. Competition is good for the consumer; it should bring us more power for less money. Woot!
- Motorola (the former manufacturer of the PowerPC chip) is now using Linux to power their new cell phones. This move should lower Motorola's development costs.

"Talent is any recurring pattern of thought, feeling, or behavior that can be productively applied."

Now, Discover Your Strengths, pg 48
 by Marcus Buckingham & Donald O. Clifton, Ph.d.

Make plans now to attend the

2003 Annual KCARC Christmas Dinner

When: Saturday, 5th December

Where: the Bean, ACU Campus

Cost: \$14.95 per person

Reservations Required by Friday, 28th November – contact Peg Richard

Key City Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 2722

Abilene, TX 79604

First-Class
Postage Required

Forwarding Requested

First Class Mail

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