

# KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

February 2004

## January Meeting Highlights

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

- Carla Dyer (K5RLA) called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
- She immediately surrendered the floor to Susan Jerrod of the City of Abilene, who then asked the club to provide communications for the upcoming "12<sup>th</sup> Annual Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride". The bike race will be conducted on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. T-shirts will be provided for participants, so if there are any unusual sizes needed outside the standard "small to 2X" range, she'll need to be made aware of that need by the end of January so they can be ordered. She expects to be back to our March meeting with more details and a reminder.
- Carla then had everyone at the meeting give a brief introduction of themselves, consisting of their name and call sign if any.
- Randy Robinson, N5JZH, then read the meeting minutes from the November meeting.
- Peg Richard (KA4UPA) read the Treasurer's Report.
- Peg then gave a brief report on the health status of Judy Smith, KC5THH, who now has a new kidney and liver, both of which are functioning.
- Peg then gave a brief report on Hamfest, saying that the press release is ready to go out, as are the dealer letters. The Hamfest is conducted on the first weekend in May, this year falling on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

The Hamfest committee will have a planning meeting on the last week of January.

- Peg also reported that our issues with the cost of a phone patch on the 146.76 repeater now has a solution. Tim Walker, WT5KBS, owner of radio station KAGT, wants to tap into our phone patch line for a control circuit on his antenna controller, which is on the same tower site as our .76 repeater. In consideration of our letting him do this, he will pay the monthly phone bill. Carla assigned the technical committee with the task of informing Tim that we accept his generous proposal.
- Opening up the floor for new business, Carla recognized Bill Shaw, KJ5DX, who informed that club that the Skywarn desk had to be moved again. It was moved back to the original location at Fire Station #9. He will soon call for a workday so that coax can be run and the antenna set up and various other tasks needed to complete the move. Bill also mentioned that the local meteorologists aren't holding out much promise of severe weather this year. He then reminded everyone that wants to participate in Skywarn needs to fill out both an ARES application and a RACES application if they haven't already become a member of these organizations. He provided ARES forms at the meeting.
- John Dyer, AE5B, then mentioned that these ARES application forms that Bill had provided are new forms,

and we're the "guinea pigs" for their suitability.

- Bill then reminded the club that the annual Skywarn Training session will be held at Abilene Christian University on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, at 9am. The class is free and open to all who are interested.
- John Bogart, WX5TX, mentioned that there are new aspects to the Skywarn Training this year, and John Dyer, AE5B confirmed the same.
- Peg relayed a request from Debbie Schultz of the City Convention committee that the club provide communications for an upcoming Formula One Duathlon. The race, to be conducted at 9am until about noon on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, is a professional athlete event, and will consist of running, then biking, then running, then biking, and then running. Big sponsors are involved, and if we provide communications, we will also be listed as a sponsor. The race will be conducted around the Expo Center area. About 8 to 10 stations will be needed, as well as the ability to get real-time reports out of San Angelo concerning the weather conditions. Nesa Love, KC5ENL, motioned that we accept the task, and Jack B, KB5HUM seconded. Further discussion followed, with John Dyer mentioning that man-power might be an issue, with that weekend being ACU's Homecoming, but others mentioned that Homecoming responsibilities were pretty much over by Sunday morning, and Peg

mentioned that church conflicts would more likely be a bigger issue. The motion carried with an approximate 17 in favor and none opposed.

● John Dyer mentioned that we now have a new UHV-VHF coordinator for Zone 5, W5WRL, Bill Wallace.

● Gary Peterson, NZ5V, asked that for events that are scheduled and announced months in advance, when the time approaches a reminder be sent out in various ways to the club members a month in advance, a week in advance, and a day or two in advance. Discussion lead to the suggestion of putting the reminders on the web (<http://www.qsl.net/kcarc>), in the newsletter, on the weekly Information Net, and on the KCARC Yahoo Reflector (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kcarc/>).

● John Dyer mentioned an article in this month's *QST* concerning the auroral activity back in October and November; he also mentioned some audio files on the KCARC Yahoo Reflector site of auroral signals coming into West Texas (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kcarc/files/Aurora/>).

● Nesa Love, KC5ENL, asked that the next time a fox hunt is conducted, that a simplified hunt be conducted for the benefit of fox newbies.

● Carla then asked the club to let her know of any program ideas for future club meetings.

● John Dyer asked who knew about fox hunting, and in the ensuing discussion it was suggested that a presentation on fox hunting would be a good program for a future meeting.

● W.K. Wiggins, WB5ZOO, mentioned an article in the current QST by a local writer, a Dr.

Thompson of McMurry University, concerning piezo crystals. It was suggested by someone that we ask Dr. Thompson to make a presentation at a future meeting.

● John Bogart mentioned that the reason the Skywarn desk was having to move again is that he has sold the building in which it was located. He also mentioned that he is not going out of business; he's just moving within the next year when he finds a new building.

## Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report January 12, 2003

<i>Regular Account:</i>	Balance Forward	\$27.49
	Income	265.00
	Expenses	107.92
	Balance on Hand	184.57

<i>Repeater Account</i>	Balance on Hand	64.00
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<i>Hamfest Account:</i>	Balance Forward	856.07
	Income	435.00
	Balance on Hand	1291.07

Amount Needed to Balance		1,539.64
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Total Amount on Hand:		
Checking		1,383.51
Cash		100.00
Coins		1.13
Checks		55.00
Total		\$1,539.64

** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)		
Checking Service Fee (Nov/Dec)		30.00
Southwestern Bell (Dec)		21.91
Southwestern Bell (Jan)		21.91
Postage January		29.60
Dues Refund (Dugan)		2.50
Total		107.92

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

● Peg then moved for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

● Many members of the club then met at McDonald's for coffee and/or snacks/supper.

### Former KCARC Pres Becomes Freq Coordinator

*Carla Dyer, K5RLA*

William R. Lawless, W5WRL, of Midland, has recently been appointed Region 5 Frequency Coordinator by the Texas VHF-FM Society. The Society is involved in spectrum band planning for all vhf and above amateur radio frequencies in Texas. Bill's geographical area of coordination is almost identical to the ARRL West

Texas Section which covers approximately 1/3 of the State of Texas. Many of you will remember Bill as WB5PYT from the 1970's when he was President of our Key City ARC.

### SkyWarn Training 2004

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

The annual Skywarn Training class will be held at 9am at the Abilene Christian University Campus Center, Hilton Room, on 28th February. This is a free class, and is open to all who are interested in learning about how weather works, and how to participate in Skywarn as a trained weather spotter. Contact [Bill Shaw, KJ5DX](mailto:Bill Shaw, KJ5DX), for more information.

## 12th Annual Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

The twelfth annual Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride will be conducted on Saturday, 20th March 2004, starting at 9am. All licensed amateurs are encouraged to donate your time and use of equipment to provide communications for this yearly event. The City of Abilene has been grateful for our participation in past years, and is looking forward to working with us again this year. For more info, see <http://www.qsl.net/kc5eno/announce.html>.

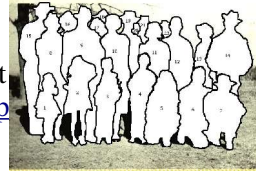
## The GIMP

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

If you have a need to touch up or alter photographs or other artwork, and don't have the \$600+ dollars for a Photoshop license (and are ethical

enough not to steal it), the GIMP may be just what you need.

For example, the photo to the right was converted with GIMP into a "cut-out" version, so the people could be more easily identified.



As the GIMP website puts it at <http://www.gimp.org>, "The GIMP is the GNU Image Manipulation Program. It is a freely distributed piece of software suitable for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring."

This free program is available for both Linux and Windows. Windows users will need to install GTK and the GIMP, both of which are easily installable using the resources at: <http://www2.arnes.si/~sopjsimo/gimp/stable.html>.

## Club Meeting Reminder

Remember to attend the next meeting of the Key City Amateur Radio Club Monday, 9 February, at 7pm on the second floor of the Abilene Public Library.

## Tidbits

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

\* Seven-year-old Mattie Clauson, AD7BL, of Roseburg, OR, passed her Extra examination January 14 during a Valley Amateur Radio Club ARRL-VEC volunteer examination session in Eugene. Full story at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/29/1/?nc=1>

\* Enjoy crossword puzzles? Try this amateur-related one: <http://www.arrl.org/news/puzzles/2004/01/31/1/?nc=1>

\* Here's a neat graphical tool for calculating resistor values: <http://www.dannyg.com/examples/res2/resistor.htm>

## Key City Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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