



# KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

April 2006

## February Meeting Highlights

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

The meeting with Susan Gerred talking about the upcoming *Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride*, scheduled for 10 AM on Saturday, 18 March. She plans to make it back for the March meeting, to do a final reminder/plea for radio operators to help during the race. Hams working the race need to contact Peg Richard to let her know their T-shirt size. Hams will meet at the gazebo at the Abilene Zoo the morning of

## Club Meeting Reminder

Remember to attend the next meeting of the Key City Amateur Radio Club  
Monday, 10 April, at 7pm  
on the second floor of the Abilene Public Library.

the race at 9AM.

In the absence of the club president and vice-president, Kent West, KC5ENO, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Not having the minutes from the February meeting available, Kent moved directly to the reading of the Treasurer's Report by Peg Richard, KA4UPA. There were no questions concerning this report.

Concerning old business, Peg mentioned that the 146.96 repeater has been repaired. She also reported that the repeater is in the process of being moved to a new tower site. Jake Mullens added that the repeater is currently in a temporary location.

Kent asked if anyone had heard the SuitSat; the general consensus is that the SuitSat is so weak that it's essentially non-functional.

Bill Shaw, KJ5DX reported on several items.

The annual Skywarn session will be conducted at

ACU on Saturday, 25 February, at 9AM. A meteorologist from Denver, who puts sensors in the paths of tornadoes *a la* the movie "Tornado", will be showing a video taken from inside a tornado. Also, the Forest Service will make a presentation concerning "fire weather". Bill mentioned that this upcoming Wednesday is expected to be the highest fire threat of the year, with high winds, high temperatures, and a very low humidity.

The National Weather Service in San Angelo, in a consortium with others such as the Boy Scouts, has launched a new version of NOAA Radio, called "All Hazards Radio". This new service will provide warnings for all kinds of threats, from weather to fires to chemical spills and so on. Radios for this service will have a "Public Alert" stamp on them; they sell for about \$30 at local United stores. These radios also connect

to external alarm systems, such as strobe lights or bed vibrators for the deaf. More info can be had from <http://www.allhazardsradio.org>. Local Ford dealership Arrow Ford has committed to purchasing All Hazards Radios for each school in Taylor County. In conjunction with this discussion, Bill also mentioned that the San Angelo weather service is expecting a severe weather season this year, so we'll be needing spotters to be available.

Bill also encouraged hams to get involved with the Red Cross. With the wildfires we've been seeing this year, communication has been a weak spot for the Red Cross, and ham operators are of great benefit to their efforts.

Bill mentioned that sometime in March, the city of Abilene will be conducting a full-scale exercise, and would like the participation of local hams.

Bill mentioned that the Abilene Emergency Office of Communications has a new call sign: K5ABI, and the NWS in San Angelo has the call N5NWS.

Peg, KA4UPA, mentioned that at the recent ARRL VE Test on 4<sup>th</sup> February, David Davis re-gained his radio license, after it had lapsed.

Kirk Castleman, K5BBL, informed the club that he's looking for a Ringo Ranger 2-meter antenna.

Bill mentioned that there

### Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report February 13, 2006

<i>Regular Account:</i>	Balance Forward	\$274.98
	Income	285.00
	Expenses	25.63
	Balance on Hand	534.35
<i>Repeater Account</i>	Balance on Hand	64.00
<i>Hamfest Account:</i>	Balance On Hand	683.07
Amount Needed to Balance		1281.42
Total Amount on Hand:		
	Checking	1,244.79
	Checks	0.00
	Cash	35.00
	Coins	1.63
	Total	\$1,281.42
** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)		
	Southwestern Bell (Feb)	22.90
	Postage (Misc)	2.73
	Total	\$25.63

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

are plans to rework the isopole at the Red Cross. He also mentioned that there has been some discussion of having a cross-training program for Red Cross and ham radio operation, and that Randy Robinson, N5JZH (absent from the meeting), has more information.

Peg then motioned that the meeting be adjourned; the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

### March Meeting Highlights

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

Lance Tolar, KD5EFB, opened the meeting at

7:04, by introducing Susan Gerred to the group, who discussed the upcoming *Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride*.

Kent West, KC5ENO, then read the minutes from the February meeting. There were two corrections.

Steve Roberts, KG5QH, motioned that the minutes be accepted as amended. Being seconded by WK Wiggins, WB5Z00, the motion carried.

Peg Richard, KA4UPA, then read the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions.

Turning to Old Business, an update was given on the status of the 146.96 repeater. It's working well in

its temporary location. At the normal location, the top 110 feet of feedline is bad; rather than replacing feedline, it has been decided to simply lower the antenna by that 110 feet, tying into the feedline there at an existing junction. This will still leave the antenna at 300 feet above ground, which provides more footprint area than the signal would cover anyway, so nothing will be lost by doing this.

Bill Shaw, KJ5DX, then gave a report on the recent Skywarn training session. He also added a few points of note. The National Weather Service would like to have APRS units out in the field, so that if any spotters have APRS capability, they need to let the NWS know so that information can be entered into their database. Abilene's simulated emergency exercise is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Abilene Regional Airport, around 10 AM. And finally, when severe weather approaches, spotters should monitor the 146.76 repeater for notices of spotter activation.

Jim Wilson, N7NGQ, reported that he had recently seen Mark Gerdes, N0TX, who says "Howdy" to all the club members.

Turning to New Business, Bill Shaw presented certificates of appreciation to several hams in the meeting who had helped with the recent fires in and around

### Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report March 13, 2006

<i>Regular Account:</i>	Balance Forward	\$534.35
	Income	95.00
	Expenses	52.08
	Balance on Hand	577.27
<i>Repeater Account</i>	Balance on Hand	64.00
<i>Hamfest Account:</i>	Balance On Hand	683.07
Amount Needed to Balance		1324.32
Total Amount on Hand:		
	Checking	1,287.71
	Checks	0.00
	Cash	35.00
	Coins	1.63
	Total	\$1,324.34
** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)		
	Southwestern Bell (Feb)	22.91
	Postage (Misc)	1.17
	Mailbox Rent 1 Year	28.00
	Total	\$52.08

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

#### Cross Plains.

Kent gave a brief explanation of how the Bike Race communications would be handled by the club on Saturday.

Lance asked the club if we'd be interested in a presentation on APRS at the next meeting. (Yes!)

Wayne Floyd, KK5XJ, mentioned that George Toone (WB5FBJ), is trying to get back to this area.

David Swart, KC5PPI, mentioned that if you want to get weather alerts on your cell phone, he can provide you with the web page for activating this capability.

Peg mentioned that at

the recent ARRL VE test in March, John Leedy, an ACU student and local EMT, got his Technician license. His call is KE5HPT.

Peg is about to publish this year's club membership list, but she wanted to give everyone a few extra days to pay their dues if they had not already done so.

Steve asked about this year's plan for a tailgate hamfest. The "Hamfest Committee" will get together on this and we'll have more discussion next month. We'll also discuss Field Day next month.

After visitors were introduced, Steve then motioned that the meeting be

adjourned. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

## Headlines

*from the ARRL Home Page*

- ARRL Alleges Misrepresentation by BPL Operator, Slams Lack of FCC Action
- New York City ARES, SATERN Take Part in Disaster Drill
- ARRL "Hello" Campaign Video Now Available
- N4S special event to mark silver anniversary of first shuttle launch
- Space "campout" cut short

- Three-Time World Champions Not Participating in WRTC 2006
- FCC statistics suggest minuscule market share for BPL

## Bits and Pieces

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

\* The new Intel-based Macintosh computers are generating a lot of interest among computer enthusiasts. This week, Apple released a software product that allows a new Mac to be dual-booted so that it can run the native OS/X operating system or Windows. I've seen it run Windows; wow! It's fast. It

is speculated that within a few months, it will be possible to run Windows applications natively on the Mac OS/X platform, providing the best of both worlds.

\* If you run Windows and haven't tried Google Earth, give it a go. It's a lot of fun, and educational:

<http://earth.google.com>

\* The recently-discovered outermost ring of Uranus is bright blue. The only other known blue ring in the solar system is around Saturn, although rings are found around all four of the gas giants (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune). Saturn's F-Ring has recently been found to be a spiral.

# Key City Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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