

WATS HAPPENINGS

Volume 6, Issue 3

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

March 2001

ATV Studio Shaping Up

A Word from our President

I would like to thank our members for their participation and support of the Young Marines on February 17. Although I was not there, I heard that it was well attended. A group of 60 students were shown amateur radio and amateur TV, including soldering a resistor to a LED (and using a 9V battery to light it up). Justin Martin (KC5KQL) let the students control the Sky Cam. All in all, a very well run event.

I would also like to thank every one for their work and support on the ATV Van February 24. It was a very busy day. The work went something like this: John Chamberlain (AC5CV) and John Gafford (N5XAK) arrived at 11:00 am to replace and rewire the top clearance lights. N5XAK also replaced almost every light bulb on the van that was burned out and two 6-inch red lenses in back of van, and then scraped and cleaned all the windows in the van. Wow! Were they ever dirty!

Norris Martin (KB5SLI) and son Justin (KC5KQL) arrived around 12:45 pm to work on the engine. AC5CV and KC5KQL made a trip into town to bring back a fried chicken lunch. They also picked up the van's wheels from Pep Boys (I had left them there the day before--to install some new tires) and an outboard tank of diesel fuel to get the engine started. Meanwhile, KB5SLI and I worked on putting the steering box back on van. When AC5CV and KC5KQL returned we took a break for lunch, then back to work!

Norris and Justin found that we were

(Conclusion on page 4, bottom)

CB25 Low Cost Hi Resolution Color Camera

420 lines, 1/3 inch Sony CCD, 1.0 Lux, 48 dB S/N Ratio, Automatic electronic shutter, optional auto iris control, switchable back light compensation, auto white balance. 6mm F1.2 adjustable focus CS mount lens w/adaptor for C mount lens. W/power supply. Output to BNC . \$185 shipped from P.C.Electronics.

The above described camera is a good buy. I purchased one and found it to be all it was advertised to be. I like the 6mm lens, but I can also use a lens I had on the shelf; an 8mm C mount F1.3, also adjustable focus. With these two lens the usability is wider. This camera has great color and sharp focus. Actually, I like the supplied lens best.

I placed the camera on a tripod on my front porch, along with the wall wart, and ran a cable 50 feet back to a Hi8 Sony VCR in the ham shack and taped a long segment as I watched school kids pass by on their way home. Some are determined to tear all the limbs off a very young tree in my yard. Nice way to collect evidence! I hope they don't steal the camera after they destroy the tree. But if they do....got 'em on Candid Camera (tape, that is).

The CB25 has a standard mount and should make be a splendid addition to the ATV equipment inventory, should the need be indoor or outdoor. The 420 lines picks up images that are of sufficient quality to be used in good Security set-ups. It should support a wide variety of lens, making it a great buy for the money.W5TAH

WATS Meetings

This Month at 601 Lake Air Drive at the offices of CORD, Thursday, March 15, 2001.

Board meets at 7:00 PM
Members meet at 7:30 PM
We will have an interesting program.
Come. Bring a Ham friend!

NOTICE

Bylaws Changes to be Considered at MARCH Meeting

At recent meetings, members indicated a desire to change part of the WATS bylaws to make membership less restrictive. In an move to comply with the majority, some proposed changes to the bylaws will be presented during the March meetings, first to the Board of Directors, then to the membership.

The exact wording of the proposed changes may be found on the insert being provided in the February newsletter.

The bylaw changes were to have been considered during the *February* meetings but had to wait because of the lack of a quorum of directors. Hopefully, this can be accomplished

Board of Directors Meeting

February 15, 2001

Present:

David Bush KC5UOZ

John Chamberlain AC5CV

Did not have a quorum present, so no meeting was held.

Members Meeting

February 15, 2001

Present:

David Bush KC5UOZ

John Chamberlain AC5CV

Marshall Mabry KD5IQ

Larry Bush W5NCD

Mike Ross N5MVL

Quorum satisfied.

Meeting called to order by President David Bush KC5UOZ. John Chamberlain AC5CV acting as Secretary for the meeting in the absence of W5TAH.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January Member's Meeting as published in the Happenings was made by KD5IQ, seconded by N5MVL, and unanimously approved by the members present.

Motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report as published in the Happenings was made by N5MVL, seconded by KD5IQ, and unanimously approved by the members present.

KD5IQ reported on receiving an e-mail inviting HOTARC and WATS to participate in the MS-Walk scheduled for Saturday 3-24-01.

AC5CV reported on plans for the Young Marines event at TSTC this weekend 2-17-01, where Justin Martin KC5KQL will demonstrate the WATS Skycam and permit the students to operate it via the two-meter link from the HOTARC trailer.

AC5CV also reported on another Spring event: "The Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure", Saturday, April 28, 2001: a new event for us. Approximately 5000 runners will run from Franklin Avenue to the Baylor campus and back, making it a challenge to cover with ATV.

W5NCD reported research about converting 900 MHz

downconverter to 440 downconvertors. Based on info from PC Electronics, it will require replacing the board at a cost of about \$48.

KC5UOZ reported on work on the ATV van. Repair/inspection work has been done by this month by Norris Martin KB5SLI, Justin Martin KC5KQL, AC5CV, and KD5IQ. Upcoming tasks include electrical (rewiring and replacing lights), mechanical (steering box, brake job, engine rebuild), and structural (rust removal in back end). Several parts purchases are planned. Goal is to pass state inspection in March.

W5NCD reported on status of his 400-foot tower. The building is completed and inside wiring is almost done. Two vertical antennas (440 MHz and 144 MHz) are installed on the tower. Larry hopes to try out the 440 antenna with ATV signals to see how well it works, and of course, relocate his 147.24 repeater...as soon as the rain lets up.

W5NCD made a motion to adjourn the meeting about 8:30 PM, and was it was unanimously approved.

Following the meeting AC5CV demonstrated a computer gadget recently purchased by CORD called Mimio (see www.mimio.com). Using infrared and ultrasonic sensors that communicate with a program running on a computer, Mimio is able to capture writings made on an ordinary marker board, as well as work with a computer screen projector to communicate "mouse-click actions" on the projected image. None of us could think of a good application of this technology to ATV (yet!) but it was a very intriguing use of technology enjoyed by all. The device sells founder \$400!

Submitted by:

John Chamberlain, AC5CV

Acting Secretary for the meeting

Upcoming Special Event

The MS-Walk,
at Indian Spring Park
Saturday, March 24, 2001
at 9:00 A.M.

We will provide Simplex ATV
coverage using the HOTARC trailer
Have you tested your equipment?

COMPUTERS MADE "SYMPL"

by John Gafford, N5XAK

Do you have occasion from time to time to restart your computer? Some software installations tell you when it is necessary to do a restart. If you are running Windows 95 you can click Start, Shutdown, and choose Restart from the dropdown menu. When the machine reboots, this screen will default to the Shut Down button. However, if you are running Windows 98 and you use this method to restart, the dropdown menu will default to the last choice, which means that when you try to shut down the computer, it will simply restart unless you specifically choose Shut Down.

There is an easy way to put an icon on your desktop to do a restart and avoid the Windows 98 problem. "Symply" do the following:

1. Right click on the desktop
2. From the dropdown menu, choose New
3. From the next menu, choose Shortcut
4. In the Command line, type C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM\RUNONCE.EXE -q
5. Click Next, the type RESTART NOW!
6. Click Finish

Be sure to type the space and -q (lower case) on the command line as shown. You now have an icon on the desktop that by double-clicking will restart the computer. Or, you can drag the icon down to the quick start area of your toolbar at the bottom of your screen for a "one click" operator.

Do you sometimes copy something to your clipboard, and then forget what you copied? You can use the same procedure used above to put a clipboard viewer on your desktop. Just change the command line to C:\WINDOWS\CLIPBRD.EXE in line 4 and the name to Clipboard Viewer in line 5.

This same procedure can be used to put any shortcut for any program or utility onto your desktop and quick start :

toolbar. But don't get carried away, or you won't have any room left on the desktop! Just use it for programs and utilities that you frequently want to use.

Have fun, and 73. N5XAK

Have You Written Your Representative?

By Horace Bushnell, W5TAH

No? Well, I have. **I'm MAD.** And I hope you are.

Last week I received several notices that two new bills have written by our State Representatives that are intended to make Ham Radio a lot less enjoyable. If you haven't heard about them, then you need to get on the Tallahassee ATV Remailer and the HATS Remailer so you can be up to

date on restrictions they plan to hurt you with.

If you are not a Ham, one bill (HB1148) will require you to get permission from your County Commissioners to place a Satellite dish in your back yard! Or even a little 18" dish! The other bill (HB1492) will require those of you who have towers of 50 feet (but less than 200 feet) to paint those towers and place lights on them like the taller towers we now see. All of this in the interest of aircraft safety, they say. Whoever heard of an aircraft flying into a Satellite dish?

You mad yet?

You CAN do something about this. You have representatives you can write to and express your desires. Do it now. Protect your rights! Or lose them.

K5HJS Is No More!

Meaning? David Boehner now has a vanity call! Just call him **K5HOT**. How about HOT Radio in Central Texas? His new e-mail address is: K5HOT@HOT.RR.COM.

Another E-Mail Address

Johnnie Fadal, N5WGY, is now is at: N5WGYjohnncarole1@hotmail.com.

ATV Roundtable

The 8:15 P.M. Tuesday Evening ATV Roundtable continues to be a good way to spend the evening. As this is written the last meeting was last evening, March 6. We had six (6) check in on ATV and one (1) on two meters. We have 14 dues paying members, 10 with transmitting equipment. Six (6) out of ten (10) is

Financial Status as of 28 February 2001

Balance of Bank account as of 31 January 2001	\$831.25
Debits: Check #353	.50
Check #356	1.00
Credits: Deposit, 7 Feb 01	49.00
Balance as of 28 February 2001	\$878.75

Additional information:

Checks outstanding on 3-15-01	8.75	
March deposits to date	72.00	\$942.00*

* 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.

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	David Bush, KC5UOZ	Retires Jan. 2002
Secretary-Treasurer	Horace Bushnell, W5TAH	Retires Jan. 2002
Director	John Chamberlain, AC5CV	Retires Jan. 2004
Director	John Gafford, N5XAK	Retires Jan. 2003
Director	Norris Martin, KB5SLI	Retires Jan. 0202

Willful Interference. What to Do About It.

From what I have been told by those experts who have experienced a lot of willful interference there is just one thing you can do. It seems to make sense to me, so I will pass it on.

First of all, you have to think about WHY these people make a nuisance of themselves by keying up or playing tones on frequency while you are using the frequency. Surely they don't do it to communicate. They don't do it to test their equipment. They don't identify, so they don't want you to know who they are. They do it to get attention and to bug you.

No matter what you say to them will get them off your back. So, don't say anything to them and don't say anything about them. Just IGNORE them. Then ignore them some more. They will eventually go away.

By talking to the intruder you satisfy him. He then knows he has accomplished his purpose. By talking about him to other operators serves the same purpose. You feed his ego! You MUST learn to make like the intruder is not there. Try it. It works.
.....W5TAH

Mobile Amateur Television Studio!

How many Amateur TV Clubs can brag about having a Mobile Amateur Television Studio? I haven't heard of even one. Yet. But that's going to change. Count on it.

Not many weeks ago, David Bush, KC5UOZ came across a former Air Force Step-side van which had apparently fallen from grace. It seems this little van had, somehow, been selected to be a "hanger queen" and, therefore, had been delegated to the task of furnishing good parts for other Step-side vans in the fleet when new parts were not available. Not only had the parts been removed; but it's wiring was allowed to deteriorate and paint fade and crack. Suffice it to say, this little van was in a sad, sad state. Even her owner didn't want her around....and neither did the local city government.

Now, David to the rescue! He talked the owner into letting him purchase the little van, promising to give it a good home, with all the privileges to which good vans should be entitled. Especially since this one had served our country honorably. David swore he would refurbish the little van into a Mobile Amateur Television Studio (Sort of a Clubhouse on Wheels). Being the newly elected WATS President, he has organized WATS members into work groups and much has been done to do just what David promised. David, WATS is proud to work with

A Word from our President (from page One)

missing gaskets for the injectors, so the engine did not get fixed, but the fuel pump works and the engine turned over OK. I ordered the missing parts, so we are getting closer! At the end of the day, all the lights on the van were lighting up like a Christmas tree! The turn signals still need tracing or rewiring, but much was accomplished. Thanks guys, for a job well done!

The new W5NCD SSTV repeater is finished and here is a list of out of town QSO's as of 3-5-01: KB5RS John (Leander), N5DRG Danny (Cedar Park), KE5RN John (Austin), and WA0TSL Clarence (Crocket). Very good pictures were sent and received, with very little noise in the pictures. Also in the Waco area: WB5OXQ Jim Miller, N5XAK John Gafford, KD5IQ Marshall Mabry, W5NCD Larry Bush, and KC5UOZ David L. Bush. I monitor

147.24+ almost every night between 9:00 pm and 1:00 am, so give a call and we can exchange a picture or two. Be sure to check the W5NCD web page (www.sstvham.com) for the last three pictures received--but you need to act quickly, because the page changes every time a new picture is received. (Use your browser's "refresh" button to see the updated page.)

If you have some ham/ATV-related show-and-tell, please let me know so we can plan for it at an upcoming meeting.

73 de KC5UOZ David L. Bush

**Come to the WATS Meetings and
bring a Ham friend or two. Or, bring**

Notice of proposed changes to WATS bylaws to be presented to the Board of Directors on 15 February 2001:

AMENDMENT THREE

Change paragraph 2.01 to read:

2.01 The corporation shall have two (2) classes of members. The designations and rights of such classes shall be as follows:

A. A Full Member must be a natural person who holds a valid Technician Class Amateur Radio Operators License or higher, issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A Full Member may hold any elective office and has full voting rights. Members of the former ASSOCIATE class are grandfathered into the FULL Member category with no required increase in dues for the year 2001.

B. A Cooperating Business Member may be a natural person, a business, or other entity which supports the aims of the Society by contributions of equipment, money or services. A Cooperating Business Member may not hold elective office or have voting rights. Such membership shall normally run for a calendar year, but may be extended by the the Board.

[These proposed changes will, in effect, change the number of classes of members from three (3) to two (2), remove residence requirements, delete the equipment ownership requirement, delete the Associate Member class, and change the Business Associate class to "Cooperating Business Member" and redefine that class, plus establish a period of time for that type membership to be in effect.]

Change paragraph 2.03 by inserting the word "Full" after the word 2.03 Each and before "Member".

There is only one line in paragraph 2.03, which is entitled Voting Rights. With the change proposed, it will read:

2.03 Each Full Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter to be voted on by the membership.

[This proposed change clarifies the restriction that only Full members may vote.]

Change paragraph 10.01 to read:

10.01 The dues for Full Members shall be \$24.00 per calendar year.

[This change deletes reference to Associate Member class which, with approval of foregoing changes, will no longer exist.]

END PROPOSED AMENDMENT