



The Exciter

Meeting Monday, 23 Apr, 7:00pm (County EOC)

Apr 2007

EDITOR: Don, KG6LE <(callsign)@peoplepc.com> 817-491-9472
CIRCULATION: Gerald, WB5NZV <WB5NZV@ARRL.NET> 940-387-2314

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DCARA DX	2
Events	3
Minutes	3
Packet class	4
Operations	4
Sticky notes	4
Exercise	5
D*Star	6
Repeater	6
Elections	7

PROJECT WORK AND FUN DAY

From DCARA



DENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER / DCARA / MARS SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH, 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs.

Come join us for a full day of radio fun, training, projects and social activities at the Denton County Emergency Operations Center

LUNCH DOOR PRIZES TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Classes will be repeated during the day so everyone will be able to attend one or more:

**D*STAR OPERATIONS PACKET HF CONTEST
KD5EOC EOC RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CENTER OPERATIONS**

PROJECTS: *Join in with a Team Leader*

**Install a dual band radio in Operations Truck *Connect and test HF antenna in Goliath*

**Build coax cables for Health Dept. Go-kits*

**Install computers in the EOC Radio Communications Center*

If you have a team preference contact <jerry.garrett@dentoncounty.com>

President's Podium

By Stewart, KE5UT



"Jerry Garrett, K5JLG, has asked the Club to assist the County with several projects here at the EOC on April 28 involving installations in Goliath, cable construction for go kits, and

HF antenna work on the roof, among others. In helping out, we might as well have some fun, so the plan is to have packet class training, and D*Star class training and demonstrations during the day, and of course, food! Lunch cooked and door prizes, too. We can do our part to help the County, learn something, eat, and just plain have fun. Check the above newsletter item or www.dcara.net for details."



Transmitter hunt

By Eric, KD7CAO

Date: Sunday April 29, 2007

Time: 1400 HRS (2:00 PM)

Place: C.H. Collins Athletic Center

The Denton County Amateur Radio Association Transmitter Hunt is scheduled for Sunday April 29, 2007 at 1400 Hours. This activity is open to all interested parties including Amateur Radio Operators, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and anyone else that may have an inkling to find the hidden transmitter.

You will need to have at minimum a radio that is capable of receiving a signal within the 2 Meter Amateur Band. Other equipment would be Yagi antennas, Doppler Direction Finders, Attenuators, and anything else that you feel you might need.

Depending on the amount of interest and time remaining we will hide again!
So come on out and enjoy an afternoon of Ham Radio FUN!

(Continued on page 2)

~ The EXCITER ~

Is published each month for the purpose of informing DCARA members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to *The EXCITER* and to the original source.

DX contacts

By Ken, K5KMR

Have you ever made a DX contact?

All of you that have just upgraded to General Class and even you Tech+Plus Hams we have something for you at the MARS-DCARA-Denton County EOC Fun Day, Saturday, April 28th @ 0900hrs to 1600hrs.

Yes, we're going to have a little DX contest. If you are interested in participating please send an email to me at k5kmr@arrl.net stating that you would like to take part in our mini-DX Contest. There will be prizes for (1) most distant contact, and (2) number of contacts. A panel of judges will review the logs to determine the winners.

(Continued from page 1)

I would also recommend getting yourself a Denton County Map... We will be working the initial fox in a rural area to prevent signal reflections and challenging navigational turns. Future Transmitter Hunts will be positioned elsewhere within the county and made to be more difficult.

So come on out and have F-U-N!

Eric / KD7CAO

Remember to use your Kroger Share Card when you buy groceries

Cards available from Gerald at the meeting



Severe weather season is approaching, get your gear in order. Review minimum reporting criteria. Charge those batteries.

BE SAFE OUT THERE

Kim Lake
Store Manager

Printed on 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

WALMART

SUPERCENTER

Store 217
801 W. Main St.
Lewisville, TX 75067

Phone: 972-436-3099
FAX: 972-221-5527

We appreciate the continued support of the Wal-Mart Super Center on Main Street in Lewisville.

- ★ 145.010 W5NGU digipeater DCARA Denton
- ★ 145.170 - .600 110.9 W5FKN, South Denton
- ★ 146.920 - .600 110.9 DCARA, Denton
- ★ 147.220 + .600 100.0 N5IUUF, Collinsville
- ★ 147.380 + .600 110.9 The Colony
- ★ 441.300 + 5 146.2 N5API, UNT, Denton
- ★ 441.325 + 5 88.5 DCARA, Denton
- ★ 441.550 + 5 123.0 KE5UT, Celina
- ★ 443.525 + 5 118.8 DCARA, Denton
- ★ 444.050 + 5 110.9 DCARA, Denton
- ★ 443.7375+5 141.3 Rosston
- ★ 444.725 + 5 100.0 N5IUUF, Collinsville
- ★ 444.850 + 5 88.5 N5ERS, Flower Mound
- ★ 927.975 -25.0 110.9 DCARA, Denton
- ★ 927.1250 103.5 Rosston
- ★ 53.13 107.2 Rosston

Area Repeaters

DCARA information

Meetings: Fourth Monday of each month (except Dec) at 1900L. We are currently meeting at the new Denton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 9060 Teasley Lane, Denton. For more info on the Denton County Amateur Radio Association, contact one of the individuals listed to the right.

DCARA on line: www.dcara.net
 Denton ARES on line: www.denton-ares.org

Name	Position	Phone No.	Email
Stewart Rabinowitz	President	214-732-3356	stewart@rabinowitz.us
Brent Willcox	Vice Pres.	214-724-2010	bwillcox@ares.homeip.net
Gerald Marchant	Secretary	940-387-2314	wb5nzv@arrl.net
Greg Evans	Operations	214-684-3682	kd5mno@yahoo.com
Guy Story	Tech Dir.	940-243-0754	kc5goi@gmail.com

Meeting minutes

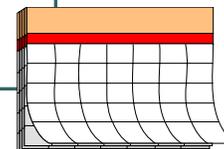


03/26/07

Introduction by Stewart. All members were recognized
 Several new hams in the audience.
 New members and upgraders recognized
 Program this evening by Jody Gonzales Denton Co Emergency Manager
 Jody introduced Mark Wilkins KC5DAG who works for the county
 Program on the Emergency Response guidebooks produced by USDOT
<http://hazmat.dot.gov/gydebook.htm>
 P16-17 covers the different type of hazardous materials placards
 P18-19 covers railcar types and truck types.
 Jody then gave an quick example of how to look up entries in this book using chlorine.
 Next presentation was Jerry Garrett talking about Huffing and Dusting.
 Dusting is a new killer high for teens- canned air is the new cheap inhalant for kids.
 It is cheap and easily available.
 Business section of meeting
 Motion to accept minutes by ? (missed this) seconded by Woody passed by landslide
 Dstar/Repeater/Financial report by Gerald.
 Waiting on antenna work on tower. Equipment is racked and ready.
 Thorsten has VHF/UHF power amps on order for the VHF/UHF nodes
 State didn't like the wording on the antenna stuff so it was resubmitted
 444.050 and 145.170 are online at 100ft and linked for testing.
 92 and 443.525 remain at TWU sites for redundant spacing.
 Packet stations at EOC and Goliath are working now
 EOC node KE5MET, PBBS KE5MET-1,
 Goliath KE5MET-2
 Presby digi W5NGU-7
 TWU digit W5NGU-4
 Ecomm W5NGU-2
 APRS is working in EOC W5NGU-10
 W5NGU-11 is Goliath node.
 Guy presented ARES report.
 Disaster exercise is soon. Date is set!
 Skywarn season is on us.
 Packet information
 How many have KPC3 TNCs?
 How many know transparent mode on their TNCs?
 Transparent mode enables file transfer protocols in Hyperterminal (x/y/zmodem, kermit, etc)
 4k limit-- zipping makes it even smaller
 Kantronics ^C^C^C goes back to command
 Use hardware flow control if you have it.
 The alternative is to use Hyperterm to send a flat text file and have other end capture text.

(Continued on page 7)

Coming events



APR

- 21-22 YU DX Contest
 QSO Party: Michigan, Ontario.
 Holyland DX Contest
 Kids Roundup
 ES Open HF Championship
 EU EME Contest
 EU Spring Sprint
 EA QRP Contest
 TARA Skirmish
26 DCARA Meeting, 1900, County EOC
 28-29 QSO Party: Florida, Nebraska.
 Helvetia Contest
 SP DX RTTY Contest
 Old-Old-Timers Club QSO Party
 DX Columbia Intl Contest

MAY

- 5-7 North American High Speed Meteor Scatter
 MARAC CW Contest
 10-10 Intl Spring Contest
 QSO Party—New England, Indiana, 7th Are,
 Radio Club of America
 ARI Intl DX Contest
 IPA Contest
 Portuguese Navy Day
 12-13 Armed Forces Amateur/Military Crossband
 Communications Test
 Mid-Atlantic QSO Party
 CQ-M Intl DX Contest
 2 GHz and Up World Wide Club Contest
 FISTS Spring Sprint
 Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest
 50 MHz Spring Sprint
 18-20 Dayton Hamfest
 19-20 40th Annual Baltic Contest
 EU PSK DX Contest
 King of Spain Contest
 US Counties QSO Party
 All America Contest
 EU EME Contest
 26-27 CQ WW WPX Contest
 QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint
 MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint
28 DCARA Meeting, 1900, County EOC

EOC Station Calls

The new call sign for the Denton County EOC is **KD5EOC**

City of Denton EOC is **KE5MOQ**

Packet class

By Guy, KC5GOI

On April 28th 2007 at the Denton County EOC, I will be holding training classes on packet radio. The class is a introduction to packet radio operations. I will be able to accommodate six stations. A special training rig has been assembled to simulate the radio side of packet. We will not be transmitting on the air but the training jig gives a simulated environment for simple operations that you will see on packet. For example, if one station is transmitting, everyone else has to wait their turn.

The class will be using Kantronics KPC3 TNCs and Hyperterminal in Windows 2kPro and one using the terminal program in Windows 3.11. The class will cover the following:

1. Starting with a clean TNC with default settings. You will have to enter in your callsign, an assigned alias, transmit delay settings and the beacon parameters.
2. How to make a direct connection to a station.
3. How to make a connection using 1 then 2 digipeaters.
4. How to use a KA-Node (Kantronics specific feature).

How to use a tnc based bbs to leave messages.

We will simulate traffic conditions that make up multiple station connections at the same time. This way you can get a feel for what to expect on a busy channel.. We will also cover why you want to minimize both the size of files you transfer and keeping digipeater hops to the bare minimum.

You are encouraged to bring materials to make notes on. Starting at 9:00, we will take as much time as possible but all classes will end no later than 15:30. See you on April 28th 2007.

ID badge photos

By Don, KG6LE

If you have joined Denton County ARES lately, we will need a current picture of you for the new ID badges. I will have my camera at the meeting, so bring your face. If you already have a current ID badge, I will just use the picture that I have on file.

Operations update

By Greg, N5AOR

Contrary to previous newsletter writings, the MADDer 'N Hell Bike Ride for 2007 will not be run this year so it is my recommendation that if you were planning to participate in that event that you help out for one day if not two in the MS150 taking place on May 5th and 6th. If interested, please go to <http://dallas.ms150.org/dallas/volunteering/volunteer.asp> and fill out the volunteer registration form.

Field Day is June 23rd, 24th and will be here sooner than we think. I will be calling on volunteers at the April meeting to contribute in the three main areas of Field Day activities. More activities are planned for this year so we will need more volunteers than in previous years, so come give us a hand. Please RSVP by June 11th with the number of family members that will be attending so we know how much food to make(don't forget yourself).

We are in the works of getting set up to have our club shirts done by "On the cuff" located on Dallas Dr. in Denton. This is so in the future you can walk-in/call-in an order on a standard club color shirt with a pocket/no pocket or you can choose something else from there catalog. It may cost a little more to do one or two at a time but you will have the convenience of buying a shirt when you want to and not having to wait for a larger order.

Sticky notes

By Mike, KD5ZCA



April has brought a bit of Spring Cleaning for our web sites.

The DCARA Repeater page has been updated, expanded, tweaked, and otherwise prettied up for your surfing entertainment. We've merged the Membership and Member List pages into one page and now also provide a portable listing of the membership so you can take it with you when you're forced to tear yourself away from our little corner of the web.

The Denton-ARES site has received the start of a major re-weaving. We've simplified the site, created navigation controls and will work through the rest of the month and into May bringing the site to flower. With your help, we'd like to add a Gallery section. Please send photos and/or videos to your friendly, neighborhood web slinger depicting your ARES activities.

Drop me an e-mail with any ideas or content you'd like to see implemented on your sites at kd5zca@fam2.com.

Emergency exercise

By Guy, KC5GOI



On March 31st 2007, Denton County ARES and the Metrocrest ARES executed a surprise disaster simulation at the request of the Denton County Fire Marshall's office. Planning for the simulation started in October 2007. The simulation involved a simulated crash of a air plane with Gwen Hall on TWU campus. This included the possibility of a terrorist attack causing the crash. Goliath was dispatched to TWU campus, ECOM 701 was sent to Collins Athletic complex, the County EOC was staffed and volunteers were dispatched to Denton Presy, Denton Regional, Lewisville and Trinity Medical Center (TMC) in Carrollton. Roanoke, Southlake, Trophy Club, The Colony and the City of Denton activated and maned their EOCs for the event. Multiple modes where used for this event, HF, packet, VHF and UHF voice. A total of 41 volunteers participated in the event. Both the Denton and Metrocrest ARES groups consider that a successful activation.

HF traffic was passed from Denton Presby, Denton Regional and TMC. HF traffic to the State EOC was not successful. The RF gods decided we could talk to Houston and Austria but not Houston. Packet was a better success than we had anticipated but we did identify a few short coming there. The biggest issue was training. WB5NZV was able to provide training at Collins with his volunteers, KD5WYU provided assistance at Denton Presby. TMC did not have packet available, Lewisville eventually did but training was an issue there as well. Goliath got a rough start on packet but went smoothly until the very end. A gremlin appeared but we elected to troubleshoot it at a more appropriate time.

Some health and welfare traffic was passed on the 5.17 repeater early in the event. At 11:00, we simulated a repeater failure. Per our disaster plan, net control went to the repeater output and passed a QST for everyone to move to 5.17. That transition went almost 100% trouble free. The City EOC made the transition but when they went to move to high power, something occurred that knocked them out for a few minutes. Eric KD7CAO was able to assist Mike and get him back on line in a matter of minutes.

We went into this event with several goals in



Goliath on station near TWU.



Net control at Denton County EOC.



ECOM 701 near Collins Field.

mind. While not in sequence of importance, here are a few items we identified.

1. Being familiar with your radio equipment.
2. Packet training. Lewisville and Goliath were the two weak spots. Training and practice help take care of this issue.
3. Per the page out, only operators that could participate needed to respond. We had multiple people contact myself and net control to say "I can not assist today". Each person took up time that could be been better directed.
4. Being familiar with the ICE plans for both Denton ARES and MARS.

We missed part of the traffic being passed. We received some traffic we did not expect. That was partially processed. The problem was we did not see requests for the info we had so that part of the puzzle was missed.

We were able to obtain very valuable information from this event. Part of our goals was to locate week spots. You can not do that on a tabletop exercise. Another goal was the demonstration of our abilities and the EOC operations.

I wish to thank all the volunteers that were able to assist in the event. This includes MARS, the AEC staff, KD7CAO and N5PAPI for their assistance in planning and observing the event. Volunteers make events like this run smoothly. We could not have shown Denton County was we can do for them without volunteers. We have not started the planning for our next event but the general idea is to do 2 events like this a year. This event went smoother than I had thought possible. I knew as a group were were up to the task but I am very proud of everyone involved. You deserve a pat on the back and you have the Denton County ARES staff's gratitude for your efforts.

73

Guy Story KC5GOI

D*Star

By Brent, KD5WYU

D*star comes to DCARA

The long wait is over. W5NGU B, the 440 module in the Dstar stack, is up and running and waiting for you to use it!

The frequency is 442.925 output 447.925 input, AMBE digital voice mode.

The repeater is connected to a Diamond X50 in the air at approximately 100 feet on the west leg of the EOC tower. With the 100 watt amplifier donated by K5TCP, the repeater is making about 60 watts to the antenna.

Range-testing reports are appreciated!

If you want to make a comparison to analog mode, you can QSY to 145.170, which is running on the same antenna currently.

Here is what you need in your CALLS screen on your mobile or portable to try out the repeater if you haven't already.

MyCall (MyC on 1st gen) your callsign

UrCall (YuC on 1st gen) CQCQCQ or a specific call sign

RPT 1 W5NGU**B (goes in the radio as W5NGU blank blank B)

RPT 2 NOT USE

You must wait for the repeater to stop transmitting before you can transmit. If you tailend, you will most likely not be repeated.

Once the antenna work is completed, all 3 repeater modules will be connected to a Diamond GP-95 antenna at 420 feet. Both 2 meter and 440 modules will have 100w TE Systems power amplifiers in line. The 1.2 data and 1.2 voice modules will be running at 10w.

After that, the next major project will be to bring up the voice and data gateway. This will bring digital voice connectivity with all the other Dstar repeaters on the US network, and provide high-speed data and Internet access to those of you (lucky people) that have ID-1 mobiles.

As we develop and test the system, there will be further information and examples on how to use all of this stuff on the club website. Go to the repeaters page and scroll down to the Dstar link.

Until next time, happy BRAAAAAAAPing!

EOC and repeater report

By Gerald, WB5NZV

Installation of the antennas on the EOC tower is still on hold pending funding release. This should take place in the next few weeks. The Icom D-Star repeater equipment has been installed. This includes RF power amplifiers, duplexers, the network server, power supplies, and cabling. The 444.050, 145.170, and 927.975 repeaters have been installed at the site. A Diamond X50 dual band antenna has been installed at the 100 ft level on the tower. The 145.17 repeater is temporarily operating on this antenna. When the new antennas are installed, the .17 repeater will be operating at the 400 ft level. 444.50 and 927.975 repeaters are off the air line pending antenna installation. The UHF D-Star node is also on the air with the 100 ft antenna. The frequency is 442.925 digital voice mode. The permanent D-Star antennas will be at 420 ft.

Back at the TWU site, the 146.92 and 443.525 repeaters have been working flawlessly. Echolink is now back on line on the 443.525 repeater. W5NGU-3 APRS digipeater is performing well. The attached weather station has developed a problem with the rain gauge and is not reporting rainfall. A maintenance trip will be scheduled soon to repair the gauge.

DCARA wishes to thank Thorsten Prutz, K5TCP, who has graciously donated the Icom repeater equipment, amplifiers, and power supplies. Thanks also to Bob Landrum, W5FKN, for the use of his coordinated repeater pairs for the 145.17 repeater and the UHF D-Star node. DCARA's other benefactors are Denton County Emergency Services for hosting us and providing tower space, Denton County Health Department for donation of the D-Star server, City of Denton Emergency Services and Denton Municipal Electric for the 1.2 D-Star duplexer.

DCARA officer elections

Ballots have been mailed to all members paid current through April 1st. Be sure to get your ballot in the mail in time to be received at the PO Box by April 23rd, or bring your ballot to the Club meeting. The following instructions were included with the ballots.

1. Ballot Instructions

A. Mark ballot with X in box for candidate of your choice. Do not mark ballot in any other way. This is a secret ballot.

B. Fold ballot and place in the small plain envelope. Do not mark this envelope in any other way.

C. Place the small plain envelope in the self addressed envelope.

D. Mail in time to be received in the DCARA post office box by the Club meeting on April 23rd or bring to the meeting.

2. When election judge(s) receive the mailed envelope, they will remove sealed "Ballot" envelope and place into ballot box, at the same time they will write "voted" beside that member's name on the "Official Eligible Members Roster".

3. At the meeting on Election Day, the polls will officially close at 8:00pm after the meeting starts. At that time the ballot box will be opened and ballots will be counted. Results will be announced by end of meeting.

(Continued from page 3)

Best is YAPP. Winpack has it. Takes time to transfer but it can be done.

YAPP compresses on fly and error detection/correction.

If you have any equipment problems, fix them before Skywarn nets

Know your spotting locations and remember minimum reporting criteria.

(no lightning, rainfall but do report street flooding)

PAY ATTENTION TO NET CONTROL!

If you have APRS capability, use it during Skywarn. This immensely helps net control.

Greg gave operations report.

There is no MADD ride this year. Please help with the MS150 on May 5-6.

See Brent if you aren't on the events list and want to be.

Fundraising committee has met and is starting from scratch

Utilizing John and Eric experience.

Going to meet again in one month, after that going to see if coffers can be filled.

Written proposal will be provided for club approval at a future meeting.

Greg provided information about shirts/badges/etc.

Needs approval for \$150 setup fee to even set up for shirts.

Discussion about the setup fee followed.

Elections Committee

All officers running again currently unopposed.

If you want to run, you need to declare it this evening per bylaws.

Greg will back ops officer if someone wants to take it.

Election committee recommendation is current officers should stay put.

Door prize committee

Jerry has been providing prizes

Junk boxes are being raided. Committee has only met in passing

Need a report by the next meeting and items to give away

at the next meeting

Old business

Pagers-- John S very busy with other items.

New goal is to have them ready by fall storm season

Quantity of pagers is sufficient (15 at last count)

Certain Motorola mobiles and portables can be programmed for QC2 decoding

New Business

Mike Penaluna Exercise at Denton airport Tuesday April

10th has been postponed until June due to conflict with EM meeting at Radisson.

City Denton EOC has been mostly installed. Located in Mike's ofc at Denton Central Fire

2 D700s are installed and fully operational.

Small issues still needing work (power supply and KPC3)

Does not have permanent antennas there yet ~3 months

away

HF station is not operational either.

Callsign KE5MQQ for City of Denton EOC.

Tom Brewer

-Correction to MARS ICE plan freq 3 PL is 110.9

-MARS needs ops for Dallas Cup soccer tournament.

Needs a dozen operators.

Application on MARS site or contact K5MET. This is on April 1st

Pizza hut stadium in Frisco.

-Open invitation to MARS club. Door prizes and refreshments

Thorsten

K5TIT has a meeting in Richardson. Info on K5tit.org website.

Jerry

Have trunking radios now at EOC station and to be installed in ECOM701

Door prizes distributed.

All recipients appreciated them

Last call for new business by Stewart. None heard.

Meeting closed at 2045

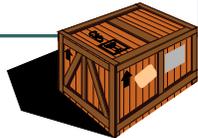
DENTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 50433
DENTON, TX 76206

APR 2007



Surplus Equipment

Second month listing
(APR Sale)
NONE



First month listing
(MAY Sale)
None



As long as this section does not get too crowded, I will accept sale or wanted notices for personal equipment from members or non-members. Priority will be given to members. Editor.