

In the DARC



Dallas Amateur Radio Club—www.w5fc.org

March 2003

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The Dallas Amateur Radio Club welcomes all who are interested in Amateur Radio be they prospective Amateurs or Amateurs of any License Class in becoming members of our organization.

March Business Meeting
Wednesday, March 5, 2003
7:00 PM

Talk-in on the 146.88 repeater
Spring Creek BBQ on Midway at
Beltway Dr. (5 minutes North of LBJ)

[Click here for map.](#)

March Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2003

W5FC Repeaters
146.28/146.88 MHz
223.28/224.88 MHz
447.425/442.425 MHz (110.9)



Musings from Antennaman

Mont O'Leary, K0YCN

Dipoles — balanced or unbalanced?

What is there about feeding a dipole with coax that causes it to be an "unbalanced" system?

A balanced system is one in which the currents on both feedline conductors are equal and opposite, thus preventing the feedline from radiating. In the case of coax, the currents inside the shield are *always* equal and opposite, so any "unbalanced" (common mode) current must flow on the outside.

When you connect coax cable directly to a dipole, the current on the inner conductor all flows into one leg of the dipole. The current on the inside of the outer conductor, which is equal to and opposite the current on the inner conductor, has two paths it can take: into the dipole leg and back down along the outside of the coax. The amount which goes each way is determined by the relative impedances of the two paths, which in turn is a function of the length and orientation of the feedline. If, as is generally the case, conditions are favorable for considerable current to flow down the outside of the coax, you can have pattern distortion (primarily the filling in of nulls, due both to feedline radiation and unbalanced currents in the dipole halves), RFI if the feedline runs close to power, phone, or other lines, or "RF in the shack". Another symptom is an SWR that changes with feedline length (other than the normal reduction in SWR due to cable loss) or orientation. A lot of hams don't notice, or care about, the pattern distortion or strange SWR effects, and if they don't have the

other symptoms, a balun doesn't seem to do anything useful for them. The bottom line is: if you want your coax fed antennas to have the patterns and impedances you plan on, use a choke balun.

Unfortunately, some amateur texts and articles give the impression that, in some special case or design, a dipole fed with coax can be balanced - but that's not true. It can't ever be true, because even in an idealized case the system is not symmetrical. One leg of the dipole is connected only to one conductor (the center conductor) and the opposite leg is connected to two (the inside and the outside of the shield, which behave as two separate conductors due to the skin effect). It cannot ever be totally symmetrical; therefore it cannot ever be balanced. What's more, some ham advertisements (see typical ads for commercial double-bazooka antennas) give the impression that their coax-fed dipole "wants" to be balanced - in other words, that there is some natural physical mechanism that forces the outer-shield current towards zero. Again, the truth is the exact opposite. There is absolutely nothing in Nature to stop outer-shield currents from flowing. If you don't want them, **you** have to take active steps to prevent them! A classic case was the guy who put up a "balanced" coax-fed dipole, with no choke balun, and had lots of fun with his 100W transceiver. The fun ended when he added a linear, and had RFI all over the place. After several months of blaming the new amplifier,

See Dipole—Continued on Page 2

Dallas Amateur Radio Club

Founded 1914

To contact the DARC call (214) 691-2888

or email us at DARC@fbsinc.com

2003 Officers

President

N. T. "Len" Carlson, K4IWL, (972-519-0521)

Vice-President

Colin Buckup, N5GG, (817-291-1951)

Treasurer

Don Murray, W9VE

Secretary

Bill Chapman, WB5DX

Directors

Joe Isabella, N3JI

Ron Wycoff, WB0DZY

John Cotton, K5SN

Ginger McCausey, W5AAN

Johnny Davis, K5JD

Bernie Parker, K5BP

2003 Other Officers

Public Information / Webmaster

Colin Buckup, N5GG

N. T. "Len" Carlson, K4IWL

Emergency Officer

Johnny Davis, K5JD

Property

Open

Public Service

Karl Meyer, N5UOI

Programs

Tom Reese, KD5IPJ

Trustee / W5FC

Johnny Davis, K5JD

Technical Officer

Bernie Parker, K5BP

Newsletter

John Carlson, K9SQ

Send any information, articles, and pictures to K9SQ@arrl.net.

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club meets the first Wednesday of each month. Guests are welcome! **The Dallas Amateur Radio Club welcomes all who are interested in Amateur Radio to be they prospective Amateurs or Amateurs of any License Class in becoming members of our organization.** See membership application for details. The Dallas Amateur Radio Club is a non-profit, American Radio Relay League Affiliated Special Service Organization. Contributions to In the DARC are always welcome and may be submitted to the Newsletter Chairman by e-mail (K9SQ@arrl.net). Letters to the Editor will be printed as space permits. DARC accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents of this newsletter. Reproduction is permitted provided that this newsletter and the original source are credited.

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Dipole—Continued from Page 1

bypassing phone lines, placing filters on TV antenna leads, and so on, all to no avail, he was finally persuaded to install a choke balun. The RFI went away. What had happened? With no choke balun, he surely did have outer-shield currents, but at 100W the effects were too small to cause noticeable problems. But with 1500W they were big enough to create some serious RFI. By adding a simple choke balun at the antenna feedpoint, he reduced the currents back below the threshold of detection. That guy was me...

Whenever someone tells you "You don't need a balun with a coax-fed dipole," you need to think about finding a new antenna advisor.

February 2003 DARC Meeting Minutes

Bill Chapman—WB5DX

Welcome

President Len Carlson K4IWL called the February meeting to order at approximately 7:02 PM. We had approximately 38 members and visitors in attendance this evening. This meeting returned to the regular location at Spring Creek BBQ.

Upgrades and New Tickets

None were noted this evening.

Visitors

There were several visitors this evening. These included: Fredrick Schleusener KC5DEO, Bob Alexander W5AH, and Phil Polhemus WN5DFH who were initially recognized. Additional visitors (off of the sign-up sheet) were Andrew Kapushoc KB2VQA, John von Gonten N5BSD, and Maury Guzick W5BGP (although he is not really a visitor!).

At this point Len announced that we would be having a slightly different meeting format. At the beginning of the evening, we will have the welcoming announcements, visitor recognition and upgrades. Then the program will

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 3



**The deadline for the April
2003, issue of In the DARC is
March 15, 2003.**

Meeting Minutes continued from Page 2

begin. This will allow the presenter a fresh audience and a more convenient venue for all involved. After the program, an abbreviated business meeting will finish out the evening.

Program

This evening' program was presented by Peter Hicks N5KD and featured the fine art of Dxing. Pete has also held the calls of G4OVP and VS9MPH, and is an avid Dxer.

Treasurers Report

Don Murray W9VE reported that there were several membership applications to consider. These included Ron Roeder KB5ADE (applying for a life membership), Ted AJ0U and Yolanda KA5ZKY Vance, and Trey Polhemus KD5UUB. All applications were overwhelmingly approved.

Don noted that the full treasurer's report would be posted on the DARC website.

Public Service

The Dino Dash was a success. All involved had a good time and the event organizers were quite pleased with our efforts. Len reported that we would probably be asked to assist next year.

Len also noted that we are still in need of an individual to be our Public Service Officer. This position is very important yet has limited involvement throughout the year. The busy time would be right around the time of a planned event. Len has all the details for anyone with an interest. Our next event will be sometime around May-June.

Additionally, Len noted we are still looking for an Activities Chairperson. This position would primarily encompass a single social event for the club.

HamCom

This year HamCom will be a three-day event. The extra time will be to accommodate the ARRL National Convention. We need a chairperson for this event to coordinate volunteers for the outdoor fleamarket.

Old and New Business

Johnny Davie K5JD (aka Zeppo McGuillicutti) briefly outlined some of the Amateur Radio efforts assisting in the Shuttle Columbia recovery. There are approximately 40 to 50 hams, per day, that are helping with communications, GPS documentation and actual searching. If anyone is interested, please check with Johnny at K5JD@arrl.net for details. Johnny also has the 146.96 repeater tied to the Recovery transmissions via EchoLink.

Len reminded all that the Board meeting will be at Spring Creek next Wednesday.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

DARC Treasurer's Report**Don Murray — W9VE**

Dec 25, 02

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Checking

General Fund 3,689.95

Griffith Fund 247.57

Repeater Fund 1,307.95

Total Checking 5,245.47

Total Checking/Savings 5,245.47

Other Current Assets

Investments

Griffith Fund Principal 5,000.00

Griffith Gain/Loss 604.24

Total Investments 5,604.24

Total Other Current Assets 5,604.24

Total Current Assets 10,849.71

TOTAL ASSETS**10,849.71****LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Equity

Opening Bal Equity 3,693.44

Retained Earnings 2,468.12

Net Income 4,688.15

Total Equity 10,849.71

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**10,849.71****DARC VE TEST SESSION****March 8th, 9 a.m., Piedmont-Hawthorne****Terminal at end of G. Coker Circle,
8321 Lemmon Avenue****Contact: Larry Herring, WR3J@arrl.net**

February 2003

DARC Board Meeting Minutes

Bill Chapman—WB5DX

The January Board meeting was brought to order by Pres. Len Carlson K4IWL at approximately 7:15pm. Those in attendance included Ginger McCausey W5AAN, Bill Chapman WB5DX, Bernie Parker K5BP, Don Murray W9VE, Ron Wycoff WB0DZY, Colin Buckup N5GG, Johnny Davis K5JD, Larry Melby KA5TXL, Tom Reece KD5IPJ and Janet Reese KD5IQM, John Cotton K5SN, with John Carlson K9SQ and (as always) Len.

Public Service

Len repeated his request for possible individuals who might be interested taking the reigns of the club's public service officer. Len also noted there might be a possibility of the club obtaining a large UPS. If the opportunity arises we would need the services of a truck and special equipment for moving the items.

Whit and Anne Griffith Public Service Award

Two nominees were brought to the board's attention. The merits of both were vigorously discussed and a single decision was reached after a vote. Larry Melby KA5TXL would assist in obtaining the necessary letters and plaque.

Club Meeting Venue

Len asked the board for discussion regarding the moving of the club's meeting location. Due to the current location management apparently wishing to use our reservation for alternative clientele, Len and others have been searching for another meeting place. The Midway Point was brought up as an alternative to be considered. It was noted that it was a recent remodel. The QCWA has returned to the same location and some on the board had seen the interior. However, some questions were raised as to the appropriate type of establishment (restaurant/bar) as well as the possibility of moving to a different day, such as Tuesday or Thursday, thus remaining at the same location. Len pointed out that the current place has limited recourses such as provisions for any audio visual aids. It was decided to table the discussion until further research could be obtained. This would, in all likelihood remove the Midway Point from further discussion as the reservation would be given to someone else.

Coming Attractions

Tom Reese, KD5IPJ

March Program — Digital Video

Mike Durbin, K5MJD, Vice President of the Fannin County ARC, will be the guest presenter. Mike is a commercial satellite broadcast engineer who works as a consultant from his horse ranch near Telephone, Texas; really close to the Red River in the northern edge of Fannin County. Right now, he's enjoying a working trip out of the country for a month. Mike enjoys combining two of his passions and considers himself an expert at equestrian mobile -- his QSL card says, "Equestrian Mobile at its Best"..His web site features both his horses and the FARC newsletter. Find them at <http://www.flash.net/~mdurbin>.

April Program — Community Service Award

DARC President Nils "Len" Carlson, K4IWL, will host the evening's activities and recognition of this year's DARC Whit and Anne Griffith Community Service Award.

May Program — Alternative Emergency Communications Modes

Jim Lawyer, AA5QX, our premier local authority on emergency communications operations will be our guest program. We are charged in R.A.C.E.S. and A.R.E.S. with the ability to provide reliable, expedient communications, and this does not always mean 2-Meter / 70 cm voice repeater operation. Jim will explain amateur communications using HF in the NVIS mode and the use of the digipeater network as alternatives we may need to become proficient in lieu of traditional voice repeater communications in emergency operations.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!!!

Advertise *IN THE DARC*, the Newsletter read by more than 1,000 Hams throughout the Metroplex and around Texas.

Rate Schedule:

Full page—\$60

Half page—\$30

Quarter page—\$20

Business Card—\$10 (Actual size of this space)

Check the DARC website at www.w5fc.org for all the latest News and happenings around DARC. All newsletters, minutes, breaking news, license classes, items for sale, meeting times and dates, scheduled programs, and much more. Check it frequently for updates.

"HYBRID" AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CLASSES BEST OF ALL WORLDS

ARRL Letter 22 No. 5

You've heard of hybrid tomatoes and hybrid ham radios. Now, some "hybrid" ARRL Level I Amateur Radio emergency communications (EC-001) classes offer a mix of on-line and on-campus instruction.

"This marriage of teaching has been absolutely perfect," said ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG. "Previously, these classes were either all on-line or anything but on-line. The implementation of hybrid classes offers the best of all available worlds."

Miller says each Level I hybrid course is a little different, as instructors take advantage of their particular strengths, access to varying materials and local interests.

Since the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant-sponsored Amateur Radio emergency communications classes began last September, 1277 students have signed up for the Level I course. To date, 723 have graduated and been reimbursed for their tuition. Miller hopes the hybrid classes will help to boost graduation rates.

Under the first year of the nearly \$182,000 CNCS grant, students can be reimbursed for the \$45 registration fee after they successfully complete the course. "When each student has a financial stake in completing the course, each dollar of the grant will have maximum impact," Miller explained.

The ARRL is strongly encouraging older amateurs to take advantage of the emergency communications training since they're a target of the CNCS grant. "Senior hams bring a wide variety of experience and knowledge to the program," Miller said. "When they become active participants, they add more insight which then yields a better learning experience."

Miller said successful implementation of the grant-funded training program already has had some positive effects, including an increased awareness of Amateur Radio as a resource by government; the formation of new ARES/RACES groups; stronger ties between existing amateur emergency communication groups and local emergency operations centers; and an influx of new hams to emergency communication teams.

To learn more about the Amateur Radio emergency communications courses and other ARRL Certification and Continuing Education classes, visit the C-CE Course Listing Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>>.

ARRL Bulletin 12 ARLB012

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT February 3, 2003

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB012

ARRL012 Texas amateurs aid in shuttle debris recovery, cataloging

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN volunteers in Nacogdoches, Texas, have been assisting local emergency management officials and NASA to locate and catalog debris from the Columbia shuttle. The shuttle and its crew of seven, including three hams, were lost over Texas February 1.

ARES and SKYWARN volunteers from the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club have been surveying the area in and around Nacogdoches looking for shuttle debris. Public Information Officer Tim Lewallen, KD5ING, of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club said amateurs have been accompanying officials from both NASA and the EPA to expedite the search and clean up of area schools. Texas officials have cancelled school in most of East Texas because of fears that shuttle debris could pose a health hazard.

"Usually we just get the coordinates, take a photo and move on to the next site," Lewallen said, "and someone from NASA will come along and pick up the piece later."

He said the club had additional volunteers lined up for duty over the next few days, with amateurs coming from East Texas, Houston and Dallas. The ARES and SKYWARN volunteers have been working with emergency officials from Nacogdoches County, Texas Rangers, NASA, Texas Department of Public Safety, EPA and the National Guard.

The ARES and SKYWARN volunteers also were following up on NASA-provided telemetry and radar information that indicates where debris might be found, Lewallen said. The search area includes densely forested areas. NASA has requested that those encountering debris avoid any contact with it and cautioned that persons found with stolen accident debris will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The Columbia crew, headed by Commander Rick Husband, included Pilot Willie McCool and Mission Specialists Kalpana "KC" Chawla, KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, Michael Anderson, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.

FIELD DAY GETS A NEW ENTRY CLASS FOR 2003

ARRL Letter Vol. 22 No. 6

Field Day will gain another entry class for the 2003 running of this highly popular operating event June 28-29. "Class F" stations will operate at emergency operations centers--or EOCs. The change renews the emphasis of Field Day's 1933 origins as an emergency preparedness exercise as opposed to a routine contest--what former ARRL Communications Manager F. E. Handy, W1BDI, called "a test of the emergency availability of portable stations and equipment." In Handy's view, Field Day would focus attention "on the subject of 'preparedness' for communications emergencies."

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says the League last year received a record 2110 Field Day entries from groups and individuals. That represented a total of almost 35,000 participants who joined in what Henderson called "a great tradition."

Given the increased emphasis on emergency communications since September 11, 2001, Henderson says, the ARRL Board's Membership Services Committee asked that the Contest Branch come up with a way to accommodate stations wanting to operate from the local EOC. The new Class F station, operating from an EOC, is the result.

"This is a major change," Henderson said. "Class F has been established to encourage groups to test and further their working relationships with established emergency operations centers." The updated rules and a list of frequently asked questions in the new 2003 Field Day Packet <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms>> spell out the details.

A Class F entry station must set up at an "established EOC" activated by a club or non-club group. An EOC is defined as a facility established by a federal, state, county, city or other civil governmental agency or administrative entity or by a chapter of a national or international served agency. The latter could include the American Red Cross or The Salvation Army, with which the Field Day group "has an established operating arrangement." Class F EOC operation must take place in cooperation with the EOC staff. Class F stations are eligible for the same bonus points as Class A stations.

There's also been what Henderson called "some tweaking" in the rules for Field Day 2003. Among the highlights, the rules reduce from 400 to 100 the number of QSOs that the "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station needs to make to claim a 100-point bonus. "GOTA stations still may work up to a maximum of 400 QSOs to go towards the main station's score," Henderson said.

In addition, the 2003 rules enhance the bonus for having an invited official visit the Field Day site. There are now two separate bonus categories--100 points for the elected official and another 100 points for a visit by a representative of a served agency.

Henderson reminds Field Day participants that stations do not get additional bonus points for contacting stations through additional satellites. As of the 2002 event, Field Day opened up to stations throughout the Americas, not just in the US and Canada.

Henderson encourages participants to post their Field Day experiences and photographs to the Field Day Online soapbox <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/>>.

ARRL Bulletin 11 ARLB011
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 31, 2003
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB011
 ARLB011 FCC Invites Comments on Amateur-Related Petition

Dale Reich, K8AD has petitioned the FCC to require sellers of two-way voice or data equipment to keep on file a buyer's name, address, telephone number and "any future information when selling a radio that required licensing under the current FCC rules." Comments on the petition, RM-10641, are due February 28.

Information collected would remain private, available only to the FCC or law enforcement. Reich said in his petition that any retail vendor would be able to ask local police for an investigation if the retailer suspected the radios were not going to be used in compliance with the law.

Included in the petition is a requirement for "ownership and license tagging" for gear operating under Parts 5, 15, 18, 74, 80, 90, 95 and 97. In his petition, Reich said such tagging used to be an FCC requirement and that his proposed change was a needed tool for local law enforcement.

The full text of Reich's petitions is available on the FCC Web site. Search for the petition number.



AMATEUR RADIO'S PUBLIC SERVICE STORY IS NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO!

An updated Amateur Radio Today video now is available for free downloading from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>>. The MPEG-format file is 70 Mbytes.

Narrated by former CBS News anchorman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, Amateur Radio Today showcases the public service contributions made by hams throughout the country. Highlights include ham radio's response on September 11, 2001, ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to last year's wildfires in the Western US, and ham radio-in-space educational initiatives. Directed by Dave Bell, W6AQ, Amateur Radio Today was written by Alan Kaul, W6RCL. The production team included Bell and Kaul as well as Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and Bill Baker, W1BKR. The editor was Keith Glispie, WA6TFD.

2003 Hamfests—Mark Your Calendars!

March 8, 2003 Irving, Texas	Irving ARC www.irvingarc.org
March 15, 2003 Brenham, Texas	Brenham ARC www.alpha1.net/~barc
March 15-16, 2003 Midland, Texas	Texas State Convention Http://www.25qgg.org
March 22, 2003 Weatherford, Texas	ARC of Parker County Email: ad5kg@arrl.net
April 5, 2003 Belton, Texas	Ham Expo 2003 http://www.tarc.org/hamradio/hamexpo/oct2002early.html
May 3-4, 2003 Abilene, Texas	West Texas Section Convention Mailto: ka4upa@arrl.net
May 16-18, 2003 Dayton, Ohio	Dayton Hamvention www.hamvention.org
June 20-22, 2003 Arlington, Texas	HAM-COM — ARRL National Convention www.hamcom.org
July 12, 2003 Texas City, Texas	Tidelands ARC Http://www.tidelands.org
July 18-19, 2003 Oklahoma City	Oklahoma State Convention www.gsl.net/coranews/index.html
July 19, 2003 Sherman, Texas	North Texas Hamfest Committee http://home1.gte.net/wb5dcu/nortex00.html
August 1, 2003 Austin, Texas	West Gulf Division Convention Email: w5hs@arrl.net
November 8, 2003 Azle, Texas	Tri-County ARC http://www.gsl.net/tcarc-ntx/nctech.html

Amateur Radio Today is an ideal presentation for clubs, government meetings, civic organizations and any other venue where you want to vividly illustrate what Amateur Radio has to offer the public. The video runs just six minutes and is available in several formats. The digital version of Amateur Radio Today is available in MPEG video format, which can be played by Windows Media Player, Apple QuickTime or RealPlayer software. It can be run from the CD or copied to your hard drive (not included).

This copyrighted program is not intended for broadcast use (including over-the-air, cable or Internet) and may not be reproduced or distributed without permission. You also can order Amateur Radio Today on CD-ROM and VHS tape. The CD-ROM version also requires that you have software that can play MPEG files installed on your computer.



MARCH 2003

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Board Meeting continued from Page 4

HamCom 2003

Len reported that he attended the recent steering committee meeting for HamCom and has temporarily assumed the club's role for handling our part of the outdoor fleamarket, although he is still searching for a club member to come forward and help out with the fleamarket organization. Since the event will encompass three days this year, we will have to support the fleamarket for all three. In recent years the fee for parking was \$20 for both days of the event. Since the city of Arlington has substantially raised the parking prices, the club will need to charge \$30 per space.

It was pointed out that a properly drawn plat with the appropriate placement of spaces would be needed. We will need to start getting commitments from volunteers in the very near future. Larry Melby pointed out there should be no expenditures for another awning. It was also suggested that volunteers be provided free parking and/or other incentives for their time.

Club Inventory

Len asked about the club's 75 meter vertical antenna. John Cotton indicated he probably has it in his storage. Len also noted we need to get an inventory accounting completed for this year.

Van

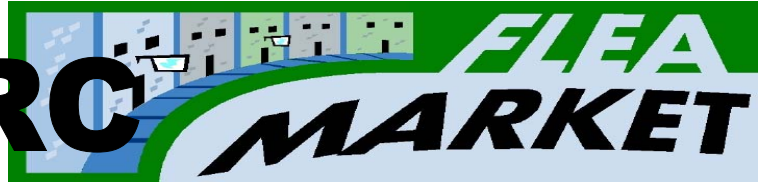
Len noted we still need to get the tires fixed and checked out on the van. He plans on getting the vehicle over to Discount Tire for the appropriate repairs. Ginger McCausey W5AAN questioned why we have not kept the van up for such responsibilities as making it available for the Columbia recovery effort. It was pointed out that the van is not "highway" worthy for a 4 to 5 hour road trip. It is primarily an urban delivery vehicle. However, discussion continued to surround the current condition of the van, its appearance and mechanical capabilities. Len pointed out the Van Committee is exploring the possibilities of what and when to replace the van.

Board Meeting continued on Page 10

- * 3/1—VE Test Session; Arlington ARC at 10 a.m.
- * 3/2—Dallas County RACES Net at 8 p.m. on 146.88 (DARC Rptr.)
- * 3/2—Collin County ARES NET at 9 p.m. on 147.18+ (107.2)
- * 3/2—VE Test Session; McKinney ARC at 3 p.m.
- * 3/3—Texas Statewide ARES Net at 7:30 p.m. on 3873 Mhz
- * **3/5—DARC CLUB MEETING at 7 p.m.**
- * **3/8—VE Test Session; Dallas ARC at 9 a.m.**
- * 3/9—Collin County ARES NET at 9 p.m. on 146.74
- * 3/10—Richardson Wireless meeting at 7 p.m.
- * 3/10—Texas Statewide ARES Net at 7:30 p.m. on 3873 Mhz
- * **3/12—DARC BOARD MEETING at 7 p.m.**
- * 3/14—Arlington ARC meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- * 3/15—In The DARC March issue deadline
- * 3/15—VE Test Session; Plano ARK at 1:00 p.m.
- * 3/15—VE Test Session; Arlington ARC at 10 a.m.
- * 3/15—VE Test Session; Irving ARC at 9 a.m.
- * 3/16—Dallas County Races Net at 8 p.m. on 146.88 (DARC Rptr.)
- * 3/16—Colling County ARES Net at 9 p.m. on 147.18+ (107.2)
- * 3/17—Texas Statewide ARES Net at 7:30 p.m. on 3873 Mhz
- * 3/20—VE Test Session; Garland ARC at 7:30 p.m.
- * 3/24 Plano ARK meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- * 3/24—Garland ARC meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- * 3/24—Texas Statewide ARES Net at 7:30 p.m. on 3873 Mhz

The fine print. — The DARC Flea Market is available for the posting of HAM related merchandise. On an honor system, a donation of 10% of the actual sales price is to be made to the DARC upon completion of the sale.

DARC



<i>Description</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<p>DARC Members—Advertise your HAM related merchandise here in the DARC Flea Market!</p>		

**TEXAS AMATEURS STAND DOWN IN COLUMBIA
DEBRIS SEARCH
ARRL Letter Volume 22, No. 7**

Ham radio support for the shuttle Columbia debris search and recovery effort in Nacogdoches and San Augustine counties in Texas wrapped up February 12. US Forest Service personnel were scheduled to assume the support role hams had filled in East Texas for nearly two weeks.

"I must say the amateurs were very professional and very dedicated to assist in any manner," said South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Bob Ehrhardt, W5ZX. "Even after a day in the bush, they would come back in to the ops center and say they were ready for another day."

Ehrhardt said the weather often was rainy and cold with some sleet. "The brambles and briars in the forest did not help," he added. "The agencies that they worked with were very surprised and pleased with Amateur Radio. I know that we changed several minds that we could get the job done."

Jim Lawyer, AA5QX, a Dallas-area amateur who'd helped to organize Amateur Radio search-and-recovery support in Nacogdoches County also expressed his appreciation. "To all who offered to assist and for those who were able to serve, thank you for being part of the solution!" he said. In addition to communication support, hams used GPS and computer mapping software to pin down and report the locations of debris items as they were sighted.

Nacogdoches County ARES Emergency Coordinator Kenneth Hughes, KK5BE, said he was "very proud" of the local ARES members who responded to the call for volunteers. "Twelve days of operation is hard to keep all things going well," he said.

Kevin Anderson, KD5CCH, of Nacogdoches he was proud of the support East Texas amateurs were able to provide. "This has been a rather large team effort," he said. "Under the extremely complicated and sensitive circumstances in which we have operated, we came together and pulled off

a rather huge task based on the scope of the operations in which we were called upon to participate and the type of services we were asked to provide."

Lawyer says that preliminary numbers reported February 13 during a debriefing net in Nacogdoches indicated that 198 amateurs logged in at one time or another in Nacogdoches County and 148 in San Augustine County. Lawyer says an estimated 80 percent of the participating amateurs were from outside the two counties. "It took all of us to make it happen, and without all of us, it wouldn't have been the success that it was," Lawyer said. "You have reason to be proud that you are 'amateurs'--those who do it for the love of it."

**UTC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TRAINING GRANT
TO COVER ALL LEVELS**

ARRL Letter Volume 22, No. 7

A generous grant from ARRL corporate partner United Technologies Corporation (UTC) <<http://www.utc.com>> will expand reimbursed Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (ARECC) training to all three training levels and put the UTC grant program on a national level. The three-year, \$150,000 grant will reimburse the cost of tuition to students anywhere in the US who successfully complete ARRL's Level I, II and III Amateur Radio emergency communication courses. An earlier UTC grant covered Level I and II ARECC training for more than 280 Connecticut amateurs.

"This grant plays perfectly into the overall plan and scope of emergency communication for local communities and our nation as a whole," said ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG. "This will allow us to increase the number of seats offered each month for reimbursable courses." Miller praised UTC's foresight and proactive approach to community involvement.

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Grant continued from Page 9

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, said UTC clearly recognizes the importance of emergency communication. "With this new grant, UTC has taken a giant step and renewed its commitment to Amateur Radio, emergency communication and homeland security," she said.

Including the earlier UTC grant and a three-year federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) award of some \$543,000, the ARRL now has secured \$726,000 for emergency communication training. That training, Hobart predicted, "will have an impact on every state in the union."

Students successfully completing any level of the on-line Amateur Radio Emergency Communications classes under the new UTC grant will be eligible for reimbursement of their \$45 registration fee.

Board Meeting continued from Page 8**Additional Agenda Items:**

1. Len will be sending emails and snail mailings to the membership to aid in recruiting a PSE officer. This will also be an opportunity to mail members reminders of expiring memberships.
2. John Cotton K5SN regrettably announced his resignation as a Director. His teaching responsibilities, new class load and other distractions will cause too many absences. His only free time would be between semesters and, therefore had to forego the remainder of his term.
3. Len announced that Ron Wycoff WB0DZY has assumed the responsibility of Field Day Chair as well as the Activities Chair. Ron will need some assistance for Field Day as he is limited in his mobility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.



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