

Dallas Amateur Radio Club

Founded 1914

To contact the DARC call (972) 669-8433

or email us at W5FC@arrl.net

2005 Officers

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Public Service: Richard Bartlett, KE6LOU

Technical Officer: Bernie Parker, K5BP

Activities: Ron Wycoff, WBØDZY

Membership: Don Murray, W9VE

Field Day: Joe Isabella, N3JI

Youth Activities: Rob Dittert, NØQIX
 Susan Klingler, KD5YGX

Send any information, articles, and pictures to John Carlson.

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club meets the first Tuesday of each month. Guests are welcome! **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.** See membership application for details at www.W5FC.org. The Dallas Amateur Radio Club is a non-profit, American Radio Relay League Affiliated Organization. Contributions to *In the DARC* are always welcome and may be submitted to the Public Information Officer 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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Public Service Event Announcement

PUBLIC SERVICE VOLUNTEERING

MAKING THE MOST OF THE EXPERIENCE

By Richard Bartlett, KE6LOU

April 9, 2005

Greater Dallas Bicyclists Bike Rally
30 Radio Operators Needed

May 7, 2005

Dino Dash
22 Radio Operators Needed

August 20, 2005

Red Hot Chili Pepper Rally
38 Radio Operators Needed

October 1, 2005

AIDS Arms Lifewalk
10 Radio Operators Needed

November 5, 2005

Walk For Diabetes
9 Radio Operators Needed

November 24, 2005

Dallas Turkey Trot
7 Radio Operators Needed

For additional information contact Richard Bartlett, KE6LOU via email at KE6LOU@arrl.net

To participate, go to the following web URL, fill out the form, and press "Submit". It's that easy!

http://www.w5fc.org/pse_info/pse_appl.htm



The publication deadline for the
 May 2005 issue of
In the DARC
 is May 15, 2005.



The President's Corner

By Joe Isabella, N3JI

As I mentioned last month, I'm currently in the field with several members of my Air National Guard unit. We've had an "interesting" time so far. The new equipment is some of the latest available in the SATCOM field, but it appears to be quite finicky, too. It has definitely been a learning experience as it keeps us hopping! So far so good – no serious outages and we're keeping our "customers" in touch. Much like Amateurs, we've had to come up with some "creative" solutions at times to keep it that way. My life as an Amateur Radio Operator has been instrumental in both my civilian and military careers and I am very thankful to have been introduced to it at sixteen years of age.

During one of my usual weekly visits to the ARRL website in March, I happened across an article about how clubs can spice things up for members. I was thrilled to see that the DARC does most of what is suggested in the article. There's always room for improvement though, and I think we can all make that extra effort to say hi to a new voice on the repeaters, or lend a hand to someone that needs help with a project. I know I am thankful for our members, as I have had plenty of assistance with tower work, "how to" suggestions, and even things non-Amateur Radio related. I'm always humbled and amazed at the diverse cross section of the population that I would never have had the pleasure of getting to know if it were not for Amateur Radio.

One more thing for this month: there was a request from our Section Manager to respond to a bill that has been proposed in our state that gives the go ahead for BPL. I know we've been pummeled with information about this, but now that the politicians have paved the way for it, we need to stay on top of the installations and be sure to log interference issues on an ongoing basis. I can't stress the importance of this enough. If there are no complaints filed, there is no record of it – it might as well not have happened. If you are interfered with by BPL systems, make sure you let somebody know about it! If you have problems finding ways to do this, be sure to ask. There are resources available to make this as painless as possible.

And that's it! Feel free to contact me via email at n3ji@arrrl.net with any questions or suggestions. Again, thanks for continuing as members and your help in keeping the DARC one of the best clubs around!

73, Joe Isabella, N3JI

Reserve YOUR Space Now!
Ham-Com Outdoor Flea Market
June 3-5, 2005
\$30 including parking for 3 days

www.hamcom.org

In 2004, after two years on the job, we began evaluating our public service program, what worked well, and what could be made even better. Evaluated were the existing events that we supported, scheduling, technology, member involvement, and consistent public service delivery.

First, we looked at our existing events. Issues reviewed were:

1. Does amateur radio still play an important role in this event?
2. Does scheduling conflict with other public service or club events?
3. Do we have the participation levels needed to support our public service events?
4. Are there any issues that would make it in our best interest not to participate?

Our research determined that in one of our events, use of commercial radio systems had relegated amateur radio to a small role in the event, with minimal radio traffic, and duplicating existing communications capacity.

There were problems with event scheduling in the October and November time frames with five events in a seven week period, and two of events were often on the same weekend (one on Saturday, one on Sunday).

Event participation has been excellent. We have been able to meet staffing objectives. In several cases, there were more applicants than available positions.

One event had consistent organizational and management problems.

Second, we looked amateur radio utilization at public service events. Our findings were:

1. Amateur radio best serves events that don't utilize commercial radio systems in the logistical and support roles.
2. Amateur radio best serves an event by providing a communications link with event management to logistics and support such as SAG vehicles, rest stops, or medical.
3. Management communications between event management officials, on larger events, is best handled directly between the event management officials.
4. Our best utilization is on larger events such as long bike rallies and marathons.

We have eliminated two events from the 2005 schedule. We retained the events that best utilize our volunteer communicators, and the events that need us the most. Scheduling is now improved by better spacing out the events that we commit to. We added a new 24/42/62 mile bike ride this year.

We have increased involvement of the membership in public service leadership. Besides more involvement of other members in van maintenance and operation, Kevin Coyle, K5KJC has volunteered to coordinate two events this year. I rely on several key members to help me with both event planning and for advice. Any of those members could take over an event in case I could not attend. Event files exist for all of our events that include last year's documents, a list of changes needed for next year's event, and a diskette with all of the event documents (communications plans, maps, etc.). One of my goals has been to make nobody indispensable and to continue Karl's and Jim's philosophy of continuity.

Third, we looked at updating and enhancing our use of emerging technology.

We have just received approval to upgrade our APRS capability with modern equipment. The new equipment will enable DARC to consistently provide APRS support to both the public service events and for our emergency service duties.

The equipment being acquired will enable us to move toward the next step, 802.11b technology. Additionally, we will soon have the capacity to easily upgrade our equipment for other technologies such as wireless Internet. We will be able utilize on-board computing in the DARC van. Soon, our club capacities will better meet the needs of served agencies and events, and offer our members the ability to utilize their APRS equipment at club events.

Our HF capabilities have been enhanced by adding a screwdriver antenna to the DARC van, and better storage and labeling of other HF antennas to give us the flexibility to quickly and easily use HF when needed. Our abilities to communicate with other agencies have been improved by adding a UHF business band radio to the DARC van. Thanks to Bernie Parker, K5BP for his donation and programming the UHF radio to include FRS, GMRS, and several public safety frequencies for emergency use. Also programmed in the UHF radio were several 440 amateur repeaters so this radio can serve as a backup radio if needed. The VHF business band radio was reprogrammed by K5BP with current mutual aid frequencies for emergency use. The VHF business radio

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has several 2 meter amateur repeaters programmed and can also serve as a backup radio. The public safety frequencies would be used only in case of an actual emergency, and with prior permission of the served agency. Also added was a citizens band radio. The addition of these radios will better enable us to interact with various served agencies and community groups in case of emergency or natural disaster.

Other areas of improved technology include better use of the Internet and the DARC web site. DARC public service events, event details, event documents (such as event maps and communications plans) are now available at the DARC's web site www.w5fc.org. Event participants can now sign up with an on-line form, or e-mail their application from a website link. Event participants now can provide event feedback with an on-line form. Also added were public service event training topics, and updated NTS traffic net information. For those with e-mail, event updates are e-mailed to participants along with communications plans as they become available.

Public service program information is now on the DARC web site for the benefit of interested event management. (That's how a bike club found out about DARC and contacted us for the Lancaster Bike Rally!)

We have improved event notification to our membership through increased publicity in the DARC newsletter and by e-mail.

Fourth, we looked at our ability to consistently provide public service and emergency service communications. Several enhancements were made to the DARC's repeaters to improve transmitter clarity and operational consistency. Repairs and upgrades were made to the 146.88 repeater. Uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) were added to the repeater and well as surge and lightning protection. The 88 machine is our emergency repeater, now it will be there for us when emergencies happen.

Consistent operation and availability of the DARC van has been improved.

In 2004, less money was spent on the van than in any previous year, and it is in the best mechanical condition in years. Overall, it has more operational availability than in previous years. Recent repairs and planned regular maintenance will keep operational costs down and availability up.

More drivers were authorized for the communications van. This should ensure that regardless of the day or time of the public service event or emergency, someone would be available to drive the van. DARC responded to the 2004 Dallas RACES no-notice emergency communications exercise with its communications van. We responded in good time and were operational quickly upon our arrival.

The van's equipment has been standardized, equipment and cabinets labeled. We are in the process of writing instruction manuals, with photos for the generators and electrical equipment. Our goal is that the least frequent user could easily operate the van.

We have increased the number of club members who help with van maintenance. Several of our members, who have mechanical training and experience, are now proactively monitoring the van's mechanical condition.

With the involvement of more members in the operation and maintenance of the van, we are getting away from relying on one or two people to take care of the van. We are reaching the point where van's readiness is not dependent upon the changing availability and commitment of a small handful of members.

Through the commitment of many club members, DARC has taken a great public service program and made it excellent! We have always been leaders and innovators in public service communications. We are now taking it to the next level and keeping up with ever changing needs and technology.

Special thanks go to the numerous members who have made 2004 a great year for public service and who are making 2005 even better! It would take a separate article just to name everyone and their contributions. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

DARC's public service events for 2005 are:

April 9 th	Lancaster Bike Rally
May 7 th	Dino Dash
August 20 th	Red Hot Chili Pepper Rally
October 1 st	Aids Arms Lifewalk
November 5 th	Walk for Diabetes
November 24 th	Turkey Trot

Other events that the DARC is supporting, in conjunction with other clubs, include:

May 21 st	Richardson Wild Ride
December	White Rock Marathon

For more information about DARC public service events, or to sign up, go to the public service link at the DARC web site www.w5fc.org.

Looking forward to seeing you at the 2005's events!

Next DARC VE Test Session is scheduled for

Saturday, April 9th at 9 a.m.

**Business Jet Center
8611 Lemon Ave., 2nd Floor Cafeteria
Contact: Larry Herring, WR3J
214-350-9580
See www.dfwwlist.org for information.**

DARC Business Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2005

By John Carlson, K9SQ

Welcome:

The March 2005 DARC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by DARC President Joe Isabella, N3JI. Approximately 48 members and guests were in attendance for the meeting held at the Midway Point Restaurant and Club, Dallas, Texas.

Visitors:

- AA9TT - David Meitzen (this evenings program presenter)
- W5GM - Jay Urish (President of the Denton ARC)
- W5APN - Robert Turner
- KE5DUV - Zachary Womack
- WB5KWK – Mike Rice

and 1 other notable for whom we did not copy their call correctly. My apology.

Upgrades and New Tickets:

No upgrades or new tickets were recognized.

Program:

Tonight's program was presented by David Meitzen, AA9TT. A very informative and nostalgic look at "Boat Anchors". "Boat Anchors" being the Hams fond remembrance of rigs gone by. Tonight's presentation focused on Collins, Drake, Hammerland, and other not so recognized manufacturers. A fun time for all and a wonderful presentation by Dave. Dave's equipment photos and additional information is available on his web site at www.AA9TT.com. Thanks Dave for a fun and informative presentation.

Membership:

Membership Chairman Don Murray W9VE presented 2 Membership Applications for consideration by the DARC membership. Both applicants were unanimously accepted to the DARC. They were:

- KE5DUV - Zachary Womack
- W5APN - Robert Turner



Get your burger every Thursday, 11:30 a.m. at the Amateur Radio Luncheon, Club Schmitz, 9661 Denton Drive, Dallas. (Harry Hines at the Webb Chapel extension). Everyone welcome!

Treasurers Report:

The DARC Financials are in "good shape". No significant expense since the February report. The general fund has \$7,562, the Griffith Fund has \$6,738, for a total of \$14,300. Membership renewals are progressing well with only 20% remaining as not renewing. The Membership Committee will be contacting these individuals.

Repeaters:

Bernie Parker K5BP reported on the DARC Repeater Status.

- All DARC Repeaters are operational.
- The 220 Repeater is experiencing some hearing problems. It is planned to remove the repeater from service for repairs. The repairs will include adding a PL tone.
- The grounding work at the repeater site will be performed when the weather becomes more favorable but before the summer storm season.

VAN and Public Service:

Richard Bartlet KE6LOU reported on the DARC Communication Van status and upcoming Public Service Events (PSEs).

- No work has been performed on the DARC Van since the last report. The Van is operational but additional repairs are required to the on-board generator to make it fully operational.

Upcoming PSEs:

- Red Hot Chili Pepper - DARC involvement same as last year. This is a fun event and the DARC plays an important role in the coordination and communication for this event.
- Lancaster Rally - April 9th. This is a new event for the DARC in 2005. The Communication Plan has been completed. Check the DARC website.
- Dino Dash - A long-time standard for the DARC. This is scheduled for May.

Announcements:

Doug Kilgore KD5OUG from the Richardson Club addressed the membership regarding their upcoming Richardson Wild Ride Rally scheduled for May 21st. Volunteers are needed (contact Doug), a request for the use of the DARC Communication Van was made to the DARC Officers, and a request for a rear projection screen (if any one has available) such as from an old rear-projection TV set.

New/Old Business:

Jay Urish W5GM addressed the membership. Jay is running for an Officer position in the Texas VHF Society. He submitted his candidacy to the DARC membership and requested their support at the ballot box. The Denton ARC will be erecting a 900Mhz Repeater in the near future.

The next Board Meeting of the DARC will be held at the Spring Creek Barbeque at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2005. All members are welcome to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEW QST COLUMN AIMS TO TAKE MYSTERY OUT OF MODERN HAM GEAR

ARRL Letter, Volume 24 Number 10

A new QST column, "Getting to Know Your Radio" debuts in the April edition of QST. Author and ARRL Product Review Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, says the column "basically talks about what all those knobs do" on modern equipment.

"The idea is to acquaint users with the typical features of modern radios."

Hallas says there was a time when radio receivers were pretty easy to understand—in some cases not all that much different from the broadcast set in the kitchen or living room—so most new amateurs could quickly learn their way around the front panel. It's a new world now.

"It's fair to say that modern transceivers have come a long way since the boat anchors of the 1950s and earlier," he says. "Many transceiver makers seem to sell their wares by claiming the most and newest features." As a result, modern ham transceivers can be pretty intimidating, making operation daunting for newcomers and veterans alike.

The first installment of "Getting to Know Your Radio" will cover the now-popular—and common—passband tuning feature. Hallas says a column on audio compression systems is in the works.

FCC MORSE, RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS COULD HIT THE STREET BY MID-YEAR

ARRL Letter, Volume 24 Number 09

The FCC continues to work toward developing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that will spell out what the Commission has in mind with respect to possible changes in the current Morse code requirement and Amateur Radio licensing.

A total of 18 petitions have been filed, including one from the ARRL, seeking Part 97 rule changes addressing the future of the 5 WPM Morse requirement (Element 1) and revisions to the overall Amateur Radio licensing structure. The FCC is planning to tackle all 18 rulemaking petitions within the framework of a single proceeding.

As far as the code issue is concerned, petitions—and comments in response to them—run the gamut from retaining or even beefing up the Morse requirement to eliminating it altogether. (The ARRL's proposal would retain the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra class applicants only.) The League and others have also put forth proposals for a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

At this point, personnel in the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau are continuing to review the thousands of comments filed on the 18 petitions.

While the FCC appears unlikely to release an NPRM any sooner than mid-2005, the issue still may be a major discussion topic during the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22.

Once public, the NPRM will initiate yet another round of public comments--this time on what the FCC has proposed. An FCC Report and Order to implement any new rules regarding Morse code and license restructuring is unlikely before the second half of 2006, although it's possible the Commission could wrap up the proceeding before then.

***NEW SECTION MANAGERS
START APRIL 1 IN ARKANSAS,
NORTH TEXAS AND ARIZONA
The ARRL Letter, Volume 24 Number 08***

The ARRL North Texas, Arkansas and Arizona sections will get new Section Managers this spring. Ballots cast in the two contested races of the current Section Manager (SM) election cycle were counted and verified February 22 at ARRL Headquarters. New terms of office for successful candidates begin April 1.

In the North Texas Section, Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, outpolled incumbent SM Roy Rabey, AD5KZ, 853 to 586. Rabey has served as SM since 2003. A resident of Dallas, Blackwell has served as State Government Liaison for eight years under previous SMs.

In Arkansas, David Norris, K5UZ, won the open SM slot 353 to 199 over Terry Busby, W5ARS. Norris, who lives in Batesville, has served as an ARRL Assistant SM for eight years, is active in ARES and RACES and is an avid DXer and contester. He'll succeed Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, who has served since 2003 and did not seek a new term.

In Arizona, Tom Fagan, WB7NXH, will take over the reins from Cliff Hauser, KD6XH, who did not seek a new term after serving for 12 years. Fagan, who had no opposition, now serves as Technical Coordinator and has served as Arizona Section Emergency Coordinator for the past two years. He also has held Emergency Coordinator and District Emergency Coordinator positions.

Incumbent SMs in four other ARRL sections also ran unopposed and will continue in office for new two-year terms. They are Jim Lasley, N0JL, Iowa; John Meyers, NB4K, Kentucky; Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Mississippi, and Carl Gardenias, WU6D, Orange.

Since no candidates have sought to run for the Montana, Puerto Rico and Wyoming SM positions, nominations will be resolicited in the April issue of QST.

***AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION
ACT OF 2005 INTRODUCED***

The ARRL Letter, Volume 24 Number 08

At the urging of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced The Amateur Radio Spectrum Act of 2005 into the US House of Representatives. The bill, designated HR 691, has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee where Bilirakis serves as vice chairman. Like previous versions of the proposal, the current measure would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed his appreciation to Bilirakis this week.

"As president of the American Radio League and on behalf of the more than 670,000 federally licensed Amateur Radio operators throughout the country, I would like to thank you for once again sponsoring the 'Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act,'" Haynie told the Florida Republican. "As you know, this legislation is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Rep Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) has signed on as the bill's first co-sponsor.

Bartlett chairs the Projection Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. One of three scientists in the 109th Congress, Bartlett also is a senior member of the House Science Committee.

Efforts now will focus on attracting additional cosponsors for the legislation. The League is encouraging members to urge their congressional representatives to sign aboard HR 691. A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr-691-sample-letter.html>>.

More than 100 lawmakers agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress, where it was designated HR 713. Work is proceeding to have identical legislation introduced in the US Senate.

Upcoming Events!

26 March 2005

Amateur Radio Club of Parker County
Weatherford, TX
<http://www.qsl.net/w5pc/flyer2005.htm>

29-30 April 2005

Baton Rouge ARC Hamfest
Baker, LA
<http://www.brarc.org/>

30 April 2005

Belton - HAM EXPO
Belton, TX
<http://www.tarc.org/hamradio/hamexpo/oct2002early.html>

30 April 2005

Ham Flea Market
Durant Amateur Repeater Association
Bryan County Community Building
1 mile south of Durant, OK on Bus 69
<http://www.brightok.net/~k5ym/dara.htm>
Setup 0700; Doors open at 0800

7 May 2005

Key City Amateur Radio Club - Abilene, TX
Abilene, TX
<http://www.qsl.net/kcarc/hamfest.html>

NETS 146.88

April 2nd	1900 CST	DARC Meeting on the Air
April 2nd	2000 CST	Dallas County RACES
April 16th	1900 CST	DARC Meeting on the Air
April 16th	2000 CST	Dallas County RACES

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