

# IN THE DARC



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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

DARC Meeting on the Air - Sunday Oct 7  
146.88 Mhz 7:00 PM - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
All hams are welcome to join this get-together.

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday Oct 7  
146.88 Mhz 8:00 PM - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
Everyone is invited to listen, but only RACES  
appointed stations are permitted to participate.

DARC Club Meeting - Tuesday Oct 2  
Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM  
Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC Board Meeting - Wednesday Oct 10  
Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM  
Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC board meetings are open to anyone who  
wishes to attend, visit, and observe.

NTS DFW Early Traffic Net - Every Day  
146.88 Mhz 6:30 PM - every evening  
All hams are invited to this traffic and training net.

## Dallas Emergency Operations Center Open House



**Johnny Davis K5JD at the control point of the Dallas EOC  
ham station**

Following renovation and remodeling of the EOC, city Manager of Emergency Operations Kenny Shaw invited RACES members to visit during the afternoon open house on Monday September 17. Among the DARC members visiting were Johnny Davis K5JD, Chuck Cumming WA5THZ, and Ginger McCausey W5AAN

## ICS100 and ICS700

You may have heard these two FEMA classes mentioned on the DARC repeaters. Club officers have committed to successfully completing these two classes as part of emergency preparedness.

ICS100, available on line, explains how a command structure can be created and used in any size of emergency, whether it be a fire or chemical spill, where more than one city may respond and need command coordination. ICS100 covers the basic concepts in how this is performed.

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
PO Box 744266 Dallas, TX 75374

2007 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Don Murray W9VE
Vice-President	Mike Yancey KM5Z
Treasurer	Mike Goidl K5BJI
Secretary	Ginger McCausey W5AAN
Director 1	Bernie Parker K5BP
Director 2	Karl Borchardt KE5AVE
Director 3	Randy Berger WA0D
Director 4	David Best KD5RYM
Director 5	Bill Dyer KE5BTZ
Director 6	Mike Futrell K5MTF

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc., founded in 1914, is an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club, and is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. Your donations to the DARC qualify for tax exemption.

Club meetings are always open to anyone interested in amateur radio. To contact us email: [info@w5fc.org](mailto:info@w5fc.org).

Our repeater Trustee is Johnny Davis K5JD. Our repeaters are located in the city of Dallas and are available for the use of all licensed amateur radio operators, subject to the repeater guidelines set forth in the official DARC website, [w5fc.org](http://w5fc.org).

The repeater auto-patch is for the use of DARC members only. Any club member may obtain the patch code and instructions by contacting the Secretary at [secretary@w5fc.org](mailto:secretary@w5fc.org). Also contact her if you have lost your membership roster password.

DARC REPEATERS:

2m	146.880 out	146.280 in	110.0/110.9
1.25m	224.880 out	223.280 in	110.9/110.9
70cm	442.425 out	447.425 in	110.9/110.9
33cm	927.850 out	902.850 in	D125N/D125N

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The ICS700 was created to accommodate President Bush's HSPD-5 directive as delivered by Homeland Security to enable private sector, government and non-governmental agencies to communicate together.

All DARC members are encouraged to take these two classes to be more aware of how various entities report and communicate during times of emergency.

Further information on ICS100 and ICS700 is available at:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/Is/is100.asp> and <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/Is/is700.asp>, for the respective classes.

*Ed. Note – We'll have a more in depth article on this important part of emergency preparedness in a future article.*

## President's Corner

*By Don Murray, W9VE*

### Fall Business

The Nominating Committee for the 2008 slate of officers has been appointed. Members are Randy Patterson KE5JIT (chairman), Scott Drummond KE5DKV, and James Shugart N5BKL. Members of this committee may ask you for your advice in considering the best slate of candidates, or may ask you to consider a position on the slate. Please be generous with your advice and time if they contact you.

### Club Focus

The DARC is working on emergency preparedness as a focus for club activities. We need to look for ways to repay our fellow citizens for the privileges we enjoy and the valuable frequencies that are set aside for our use. I encourage every member to develop his or her emergency communications skills. As trained and skilled communicators we will be able to move important traffic accurately and swiftly, making full use of the resourcefulness that has always been a hallmark of amateur radio operators. The ICS100 and ICS700 FEMA classes are still available online, at no cost. Some members also report that the ICS800 class is very appropriate. The Board understands that this focus on emergency communications is not for everyone,

but if it's not your cup of tea I urge you to look for other ways that you can use your radio knowledge to assist, to teach, or to inspire.

### **New Members Welcome**

Four new members were voted in at the September meeting; David Dussé KE5BX, Judy McCraw KE5OYQ, Stephen Hills KE5JUZ, and his son, Colin Hills KE5FXX. Their pictures are included elsewhere in this issue. Please make them feel welcome.

### **Loaner Equipment**

Loaner HF equipment is available for 30-days checkout to members who would like to see what HF operation is like before laying out the cash for an HF rig. We currently have a Kenwood TS-440SAT, a Kenwood TS-140S, and an ICOM IC-718 available. The club also has power supplies for the rigs. The only item currently on loan is an MFJ antenna tuner. Contact me or any Board member if you are interested.

### **Upgrades**

Look at the new Generals! The DARC congratulates the following members for their successful upgrade to General: Roberta Lacey KB5VLK, Dave Millican KD5IZF, and LeRoy Strickland N5ZPK. Now you can get on the GOOD bands!!!

### **BPL**

You may have noticed the article about ONCOR Energy's use of BPL in the DFW area in Wednesday's business section of the *Dallas Morning News*. They have installed about 60,000 "smart" meters and plan to install about 200,000 more. The meters will allow remote reading to put your meter reader out of a job, saving Oncor millions of dollars. The meters cost about \$600 to \$800 each, guess who gets to pay for them...that's right. The good news is that Oncor is using Current's ham-friendly BPL technology, so interference is not expected to be a problem.

### **From the Editor**

Deciding what goes in the DARC newsletter is a monthly challenge. It's sort of like doing a weekend electronics project – you look at what's in

the "junk drawer", mentally calculate your chances at finding some missing component at your local Radio Shack, and finally, constructing something that's both useful and interesting to other hams.

The deadline for every newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. When that date rolls around there's the usual "late arrivals", "unexpected arrivals", and the "no arrivals". So I open the "junk drawer" and pull out any articles sitting on a "back burner" (it's rare – but it does happen). I sometimes write a couple of articles "ahead of time" just in case my usual contributors are hit by a truck or something and fail to provide me with "new material".

Lastly, there's always the fear one of those articles won't "fit" with the interests of the *In the DARC* readership. I took that chance with an article on "Air Traffic Control". What?

Well, few people get the opportunity to work "net control" stations with any degree of frequency and may be called upon to do so during an emergency. So I wrote a quick piece on an "alternative" way to get that practice. Does it match up with DARC interests or will the newsletter get tossed aside as "so much rubbish". I don't know. Hopefully the readership will see the predicament I'm in as well. The single person I always rely on for content is – well me – so I take my chances – with what I know. Hopefully you'll find some value in this unusual article.

Also, I'd like to thank Mike Yancey KI5Z for his unexpected (but much appreciated), Yaesu interface article.

I'll be continuing the "Meet a DARC Member" series where we pry into the private lives of DARC members, photograph their shacks, and document their sorted amateur careers.

You could be next. Feel free to contact me if you would like to be our next victim – er – volunteer!  
<mailto://newsletter@w5fc.org>

### **Minutes of the DARC Board Meeting of 4 Sept 2007**

#### **Present**

President	Don W9VE
Vice-President and Webmaster	Mike KM5Z
Secretary and Education Officer	Ginger W5AAN
Treasurer	Mike K5BJI
Director 2	Karl KE5AVE

Director 3	Randy WA0D
Director 4	Dave KD5RYM
Director 6 and Field Day Marshal	Mike K5MTF
Member	Randy KE5JIT
Member	Bob K8AGH
<b>Absent</b>	
Director 1 and Technical Officer	Bernie K5BP
Director 5 and Public Service Officer	Bill KE5BTZ

Meeting started with a review and discussion of the following communication:

*Mr. Murray,*

*Wonderful! Let me give you a few more details about the program and what guest speakers have done in the past.*

*Ideally, we would like to have the speaker(s) come on 2 days – as we see our students in two different groups. We have roughly 50 fifth and sixth graders that we see on Wednesday and 17 fourth graders that we see on Thursday's. These students are part of a gifted and talented program in R.I.S.D., so although they are young they can handle complex concepts and ideas.*

*Because these are children they need a "hands on" experience along with the lecture/ PowerPoint / or presentation. For example, if the speaker was an expert with Morse code it would be great for him/her to bring in artifacts and then have some activities for them to do with the information that was shared. Some other interesting topics may be the history of radio shows, emergency radio signals, etc.*

*The main idea of any presentation should always come back to our generalizations and rationale:*

**Rationale:** *As we move into an increasingly complex future, communication skills are essential for confident, productive, and empowered citizens.*

**Generalizations:** *Communication is a continuous process. Perception is the foundation of communication, Communication is inevitable and irreversible, Interpersonal communication affects and is affected by intrapersonal communication.*

*A 45 minute – 1 hour presentation is the time limitation we are working with. Time frames available are from 9:00 am – 12:00pm.*

*If you give me a heads up on what the speaker(s) specialty (or area of passion) is then I could give more specific details as well. We're pretty much open with dates as long as they fall on Wednesday and Thursday.*

*Here's our school address:*

*Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet  
8301 Towns Street  
Dallas, TX 75243*

*\*We are located off of 75 and Forest Lane, by the Dart station. You may contact me directly at this email address or phone:  
469-593-3941*

*Tabitha*

Discussion:

Who can do what?

W9VE will bring up at the October Regular Club Meeting

KM5Z is flexible and work around his work schedule to possibly attend

W9VE would be willing to help

KM5Z will discuss with WA0D

Meeting Program – October – Kamal, 4S7AB, ham radio in Sri Lanka

There was short discussion on needing ideas for programs. There were two suggestions (1) Show and Tell Event from different members and (2) Slide show of DXing.

Member, KE5JIT, who was announced in the Regular Club Meeting as being Chairman of Nomination Committee for 2008, brought up the concern of Movie Night for the November General Club Meeting. This movie is proposed to run for just over two hours. If this would be the case, it would be after 9:00pm before nomination would be brought up and opening the floor for voice nominations. KE5JIT suggested this might not be the best month for such an important meeting. It was discussed that possibly this movie could be shown in two separate meetings or moved to a future date. No final decision was made for November General Meeting program.

**900Mhz**

KE5AVE delivered message from AB5IG. He requesting that if the DARC wanted the 900Mhz

repeater fixed, someone would need to deliver to him. W9VE took the responsibility to deliver – no date given.

Bubble - up good  
Reception – terrible

Could the issue be with the antenna?

### **Meeting location discussion:**

- It was brought up that a new member had noticed no wives and children were attending meetings since they were being held in a church versus a food establishment.
- It was noted there was still opportunity to meet, eat and fellowship at 6:00pm at close by eatery.
- Was also stated – although no records to support – that attendance had not decreased, as to the number attending regular meetings, just the people have changed. The sign in sheet for all attending was put into place starting the September General Meeting to have a record of attendance.
- There is also the issue that no one has come up with an acceptable location that serves food and has the ability to seat approximately 50 people.

K5BGI suggested we need to consider making an offering to the church as a thank you for allowing us to have a place to meet twice a month. KD5RYM made it clear that nothing was expected from the church.

It was discussed and proposed that an offering of \$100 be given to Brookhaven Church on behalf of DARC as a thank you. This motion was made by K5MTF and passed unanimously.

**Van Status** – The van would not crank after three weeks of sitting idle. The next steps discussed were (1) drop the gas tank and clean screen, (2) pull carburetor to see if there is a cracked base. K8AGH will find a location to work on van. There have been two new batteries purchased from Tanners. They need to be installed. KE5JIT will give his keys to the van to K8AGH (done after the meeting) per the orders of W9VE. Nothing has been done to repair the antenna that was damaged during Field Day. Discussion was held that stainless steel will be used to repair the hole and this was deferred to K8AGH. W9VE advised he was going to stop

being van maintenance officer since one had been recently appointed. It was also discussed that all the radios needed to be turned over to K5BP to ensure they were working properly.

There was a question brought up as to what had happened to looking into a grant to obtain D\*Star. It was also suggested maybe we try to get grant for this and a new van and keep the original van for the other radios. No decision was made.

**ICS Classes 100 and 700** – There was an agreement by the Officers and Directors during the special meetings in July to take both these classes before the next General (100) and Board (700) meeting. A survey of the member present was very disappointing. This had not been completed. This brought up the commitment of the board to moving forward on discussions during special meetings.

**Expenditures** – Treasurer, K5BJI brought up that we will need to purchase, by the end of this year, new Quicken software, which would cost approximately \$180.

There was a question asked as to whether the club had a budget? The response was no. No further action taken.

Mike, KM5Z, is to clean DL list up for website. Seems there are a lot of former officers that should not be on the current DL for board@W5FC.

**Nominations** – End of Terms for Officers and Directors

W9VE had announced Nomination Chairman in Regular Meeting to be KE5JIT. It was announced that N5BKL, would be joining the committee. The third member of the committee will be announced on the DARC meeting on the air this Sunday.

KE5JIT addressed the meeting regarding nominations. There was concern of where the member saw the club, what direction they were thinking, and how strong their commitments were with moving forward with emergency or club readiness. In our mission statement there is no reference to food or eating, but continuously comes up. Maybe we need to add to our mission statement?

It was asked that all officers think about whether they were available to run again, what office they would be interested in and why. KE5JIT stated

once the committee was finalized, a questionnaire would be sent to the board via email and request that all complete-even the ones not up for elections. This process, we would also like to be used for any floor nominations.

“Do you know how hard it is to takes notes with multiple conversations going on?”

- Notes submitted by Randy Patterson – KE5JIT

## New Members

Get to know our newest members voted in at the September Meeting, David Dussé KE5BX, Judy McCraw KE5OYQ, Stephen Hills KE5JUZ, and his son, Colin Hills KE5FXX. Welcome! Make a point of saying hello either on the air or at one of the DARC functions.



David Dussé AE5BX      Judy McCraw KE5OYQ      Stephen Hills KE5JUZ  
 Not pictured: Colin Hills, KE5FXX

## A Challenging New Way to Play “Radio”

*by Tom General, KE5ICX*

Operators get into this hobby for many reasons, and find new ones that keep them interested in the hobby for many years. Several years ago, before my interest in ham radio I participated in one of the very first "networked" games on the Internet. It consumed hours of my time without me realizing it. But unlike "first person shooter" games, this "game" had nothing to do with "capturing the flag" or "wiping out evil zombies" or other adolescent attractions.

**73 to Erik Nail, KE6UWF, SK on September 26, 2007. Although he was not a member, Erik was a strong supporter of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club. He was a USMC veteran of the Gulf War.**



Screen shot of KLM aircraft in tight Netherlands airspace. Test your radio/net control skills in a new way.

Created by three commercial pilots in 2000, (Virtual Air Traffic Simulation) VATSIM is free software, which couples with the popular Microsoft "Flight Simulator" creating the world's first virtual, air traffic control system. Their purpose; create a interest and appreciation for air traffic control by offering an interactive way to experience the job in the "first person".



The software “package” contains the necessary communications software, screens, and instructions to create an "air chair" flight controller and link them to the a huge supply of wannabe Internet virtual pilots. Borrowing heavily from FAA Part 121, the official IFR flight rules used by real pilots, the "game" pits trained controllers to move air traffic from any spot in the world "safely" to any other spot.

So where does the amateur radio operator fit in, and how on earth can a game hone the skills of a licensed operator?

For the amateur radio operator it's a new challenge in sending accurate and technical instructions in an organized way. Learning to stack and monitor dozens of aircraft in 3 dimensional space will give a new appreciation of the men and women who "push tin" for a living.

During one of my stints as TRACOM for the virtual Detroit Metro Airport I had two aircraft taking off simultaneously from runways 21L and 21R. Somehow in the instructions I gave the aircraft on 21L a right turn and the other aircraft of identical type a left turn (instead of the other way around). As you can imagine, this created an instant problem as I almost had a major crash with the loss of "hundreds of virtual lives". A lesson learned: It's easy to make a serious mistake. The same holds true during civil emergencies - say the wrong thing and people, potentially could suffer from your mistake.

In the software a klaxon goes off and the aircraft icon changes to a "conflict alert" icon. Meaning - once the aircraft is handed off to another controller, they know that particular aircraft was in an "near collision incident". That usually prompts some comments from fellow controllers on your "flight control" capabilities.

For us, this game provides us a couple of curiously interesting things.

1. It forces us to work many situations at the same time. Whether it be APRS enabled "net control", for a bike run, marathon, Skywarn or other "spread out" civic event, successfully navigating aircraft to and from tightly controlled airspace via voice is a splendid way to "bone up" for your next event.
2. Using organizational and radio skills and attaching it to new rules and regulations concerning aircraft a whole new challenged comes to a skill you already have - radio communications. If you've "done it all" in the world of amateur radio, unless you're a pilot or flight control in real life, you've never experienced this fascinating hobby.

Try it out - I'm sure you'll be hooked in no time.

The software for this program is free and available at:

<http://www.vatsim.com/downloads.html>.

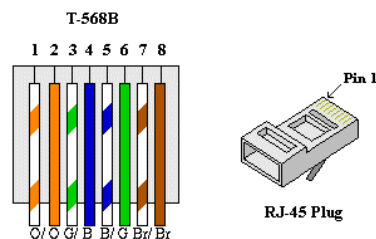
## A Lightweight PC Headset for the Yaesu FT-897D

*By Michael Yancey, KM5Z*

Several articles have been published recently in QST on how to use an inexpensive PC headset with

ICOM (July 2007) and Yaesu (April 2007) rigs – some of these have include foot-switches, and data / cat cables, etc. This article is a simple connection of a PC Headset (stereo headphones plus an electret microphone) to a Yaesu FT-897D – a poor man's Heil Traveller headset.

This was a Sunday afternoon project. The hardest part was making a nice enclosure – drilling holes to line up with the small round switches I used for the UP / DOWN and FAST mic features and nibbling a larger, round hole for a square PTT switch.



The standard "Pin Out" and color code for Ethernet (and many, modern radio headsets/microphones).

The FT-897 is a 'modern' rig with a modular microphone cable instead of the typical round connectors. This makes them almost impossible to build, unless you have proper crimp tools and you can crimp evenly, etc. Instead, let's make use of some scrap Ethernet (CAT-5) cable. This **must be** a straight through cable (not a 'cross over cable'). This is easy to identify and we'll use the color schemed pinout here:

Now for the FT-897's microphone pinout (from <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rg4wpw/date.html>):

<b>PIN1</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
<b>PIN2</b>	<b>UP</b>
<b>PIN3</b>	<b>MIC 5V +</b>
<b>PIN4</b>	<b>MIC GND</b>
<b>PIN5</b>	<b>MIC AUDIO</b>
<b>PIN6</b>	<b>PTT</b>
<b>PIN7</b>	<b>GROUND 0 V</b>
<b>PIN8</b>	<b>FAST</b>

With this in mind, I found G8JNJ's clever implementation of a light headset online (PDF document) here:

[http://www.geocities.com/martin\\_ehrenfried/BoomMic.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/martin_ehrenfried/BoomMic.pdf)

In Martin's implementation, he includes everything in the headset – cracking open one ear-piece to put his components and running the Ethernet cable all the way up to the headset.



**Mission Accomplished: Completed Interface Box**

In my implementation, I use an interface box – this way, I can try different headsets and when I'm not using the headset for Radio, I can plug it into my PC. AND I have a platform to use the 3 function buttons (UP / DOWN / FAST)

First, I run the 1/4 inch phone jack plus a short pigtail of the Ethernet cable (using the modular plug to replace the mic) to a box where I have the three typical Yaesu buttons – UP and DOWN scan and the FAST button.. Wiring is straightforward:

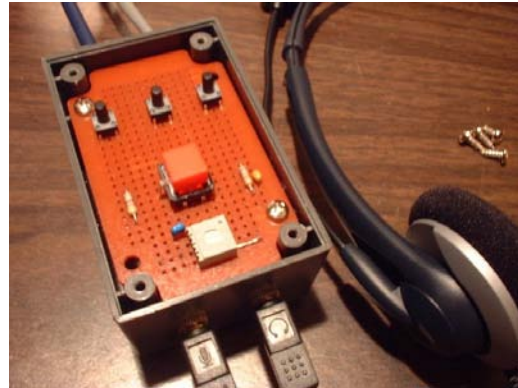
1. The Headphone wires straight through to a 3.5mm jack in the interface.
2. Green (Pin 6) and Brown/White (Pin 7) short to make PTT – I used a square button pulled from a dead garage-door opener. (Visions of garage doors opening down the ally as I key down)
3. Now for the Mic – Three mic pins are used: 5V power, audio IN, and Ground and these will wire to a 3.5mm stereo jack.



- a. Green/White (Pin 3) is the 5 V+ input which may be used to power the electret mic in the headset. This passes through a 4.7K Ohm resistor THEN can be wired to the MIC jack's CENTER (or ring) connector.
- c. Audio comes out of the mic through the TIP of the MIC jack. This should run through a 0.1uF capacitor to isolate any possible

DC from the 5V input from the radio. We can also provide a built in mic-gain here and pass the audio through a small variable trimpot of 10k ohms.

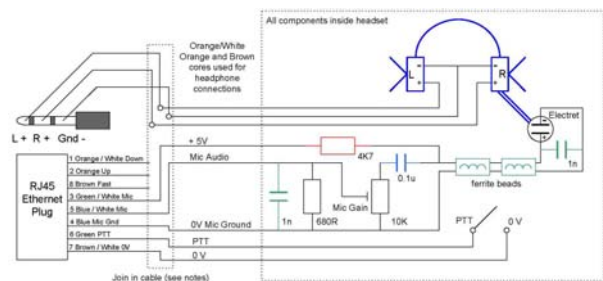
- d. The Audio out comes out of the center pin of the trimpot and we provide a 680 ohm resistor to keep impedances even at the radio (communications mics are approximately 600 ohms).



**What's Inside: Breadboard layout for the Yaesu Interface Box.**

4. Finally the 3 typical Yaesu function buttons. Each of these: Orange/White (Pin 1) – DOWN, Orange (Pin 2) – UP, and Brown (Pin 6) – FAST can be run to momentary switches which short to ground on press.

This article can be adjusted for most any radio – check your MIC pinout carefully. If 5V is not provided at the Mic port, you can use a 9V battery and a cheap 78L05 voltage regulator.



**Schematic for Yaesu Interface Box**

## Minutes of the DARC Regular Club Meeting of 1 May 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Don Murray W9VE at 7:00 PM at the Brookhaven Church, at the corner of Valley View and Marsh. Thirty-three were present.

Jim McClellan N5MIJ presented an excellent program on the D-Star system and gateway and their use.

It appears that D-Star may become an important means of emergency communications. The DARC will be paying close attention to its development and adoption, in order to make future decisions regarding our club's plans.

Club members present were happy to vote in as new members: Judy McCraw KE5OYQ, David Dussé AE5BX, Steven Hills KE5JUZ, and his son Colin Hills KE5FXX.

We had 33 club members present, exceeding the required quorum, and they voted unanimously to accept the proposed amendment to the club by-laws. The amendment, dealing with the Whit and Anne Griffith Community Service Award, affects Article XI, section 3, paragraph i as follows:

- i. In the event that said fund grows to exceed \$10,000, as determined in November of the year, the board of directors, at its discretion, may allocate moneys from the fund to donate a sum in the month of the following December, not to exceed \$1000 in any calendar year, and not in an amount such as to reduce the remainder in the fund to below \$10,000, to the Youth and Education Fund of the American Radio Relay League.
- ii. At no time will moneys from the Whit and Anne Griffith Community Service Award fund be allocated for any purpose other than those specified in this Paragraph of this Section of this Article, except as prescribed in Paragraph k of this section of this Article.

Technical Officer Bernie K5BP reported that the Kenwood 88 repeater is up again, following installation of backup cavities. The original cavities

will have to be repaired, because of lightning damage. Don had repaired the amplifier transistor that was also destroyed as a result, and the amplifier will be replaced within the next few days, so that the W5FC repeater will be back up to its former strength. The new PL/carrier dual squelch is working well, and this is a unique arrangement installed primarily for the benefit of those whose radios do not include tone encoding, so that a strong carrier will open the squelch. For PLED signals, there will be a quieter squelch tail.

Don appointed KE5JIT as Chair of the Nominating Committee to nominate club officers and directors for 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

- *minutes submitted by Ginger McCausey*

### Get to Know a DARC Member: Bob Wood, K8ADH



Bob Wood (K8ADH) is a relatively new member of the DARC. In just a few short months he's volunteered to take care of the DARC van as the Van Readiness Officer, was actively involved in Field Day, and attended a number of board and general meetings.

Bob was originally licensed in 1976 as WB5WUZ. He got involved in electronics at 13 years old, mostly because his dad used to repair televisions. His older brother was a technician in the Air Force, so apparently, this stuff is in the Wood's family DNA.

Bob's main amateur radio passion is MARS and public service. He most enjoys meeting different people on the radio and then discovering just how different they look when he finally sees them in public.

He has also been an active member of Skywarn in Checotah, OK, and throughout Indiana. One of his

most exciting events was when he was deployed in the field as a storm spotter, participating on a Skywarn net in Franklin, IN where a net control was tracking him on APRS. Unfortunately the net control weather information was about 5 to 7 minutes old and reporting a tornado about 3.5 to 4 miles from his location. Unfortunately, Bob had a little more recent information when the aforementioned twister whipped his ¾ ton truck around three times. Needless to say, Bob's experience was a memorable one.

Anyone who's seen Bob's Chevy Silverado, complete with six antennas sprouting from the cab top, knows he drives the ultimate command center. Some at DARC have nicknamed his vehicle, "The Batmobile".



Inside from left to right are head mounts for a Kenwood D-700 Dual Band with built in TNC which he uses with APRS and a Garman Street Pilot GPS. Next to it a ICOM IC-706MKII which feeds his Ameritron ALS-500M 500 watt linear amplifier.



In the lower part of the cab, he has a Motorola Syntor X9000, VHF, to monitor public service, Dallas County, SE Cities, and DPS. Immediately to the right, a Motorola Spectra VHF for amateur and MARS use. The Spectra X9000 below the Spectra is 450Mhz UHF, to monitor DPD, and DFP.

Bob's main communications interests include digital VHF/UHF/HF with PSK31, MT63, Olivia, and will be adding Winlink/Pactor using a recently purchased a Kantronics+ TNC. Using his laptop he's able to connect via HF to "air mail", BBS's for

email, which he uses for MARS activity. He does this without a connection to the Internet.

## QRT

Can you answer this question from the Extra Class question pool?

### E2B01:

How many times per second is a new frame transmitted in a fast-scan television system?

1. 30
2. 60
3. 90
4. 120

Answer: A: 30 times per second.

Read more about it at:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/atv.html>

On the Internet:

## AC6V's

Amateur Radio and DX Reference Guide

Rodney Dinkins, AC6V has the largest and most comprehensive list of links to amateur radio software; Linux, Microsoft, and Apple Macintosh. You can even find software for the Commodore 64, Palm, and Amiga (how about that!?!).

<http://www.ac6v.com/software.htm>