



IN THE

DARC



<http://www.w5fc.org>

Tom General KE5ICX, Editor December 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

DARC Club Meeting - Tuesday December 1
 Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM
 Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC Board Meeting - Tuesday December 1
 Brookhaven Church 6:00 PM

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday January 3
 146.88 MHz 8:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
 Everyone is invited to listen, but only RACES
 appointed stations are permitted to participate.

DARC Meeting on the Air - Sunday Dec. 6 & 20
 146.88 MHz 7:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
 Now available through Echolink Node 37247

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.

Turkey Trot 2009



The 42nd Dallas YMCA Turkey Trot was a big success with the DARC providing communications support for this annual event.

Turkey Trot is held every Thanksgiving Day and is the largest Thanksgiving Day event of its kind in the country. Starting from humble beginnings 41 years ago at White Rock Lake, it has grown into the undisputed "Way to Begin Thanksgiving Day" for thousands of locals as well as those who travel to share in our great event. This year 33,000 participants ran or walked the event with over 2,000 event volunteers.

Twenty-two hams signed up and manned various, key communications and shadow support positions.

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

2009 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Randy Patterson KE5JIT
Vice-President	David Best KD5RYM
Treasurer	Bob Kelly KE5PHX
Secretary	Scott Drummond KE5DKV
Director 1	Karl Borchardt KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman May KE5HYW
Director 3	James Shugart N5BKL
Director 4	Tom General KE5ICX
Director 5	Kevin Harkins W5DJK
Director 6	Scott Clark N1SAC

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.

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.

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. Also contact him if you have lost your membership roster password.

DARC REPEATERS:

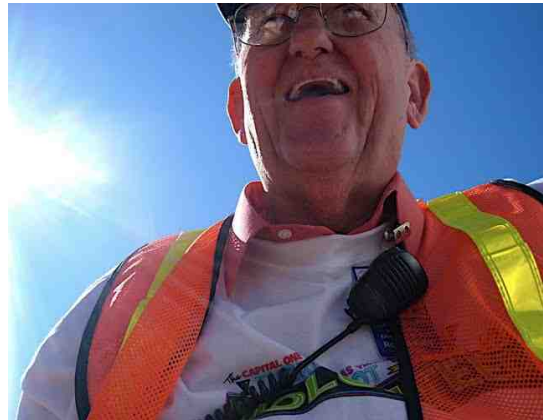
2m	146.880 out	146.280 in
	110.9/110.9	
	Echolink Node: 37247 / W5FC-R	
1.25m	224.880 out	223.280 in
	110.9/110.9	
70cm	442.425 out	447.425 in
	110.9/110.9	

Cover Photo: The "clean up crew" that stayed behind to secure the trailer after "Turkey Trot 2009", from L to R Roger KE5YTA, Randy KE5JIT, Bill AD8BC, Kevin W5DJK, Bob KE5PHX, and Tony KE5TGM.

Your letters to the editor or articles for *In the DARC* are welcomed. They may be edited for length or style, and they may or may not be published. The 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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This year our support included keeping track of an unusually large bunch of "lost kids" and reuniting them with their parents (or is that the other way around?).



Bob KE5PHX taking in the festivities in downtown Dallas.

The event started early with 5 DARC members setting up the trailer before sunrise (6:30AM) and getting it operational.

Communications support included the talk in frequency 146.880Mhz (W5FC) in the early hours, and use of the Jim Haynie's repeater 442.500 (W5JBP), which provided very good coverage downtown and relief from intermod and signal "dead spots", prevalent in downtown Dallas.

Walt Mayfield KE5OOS, set up APRS and "go boxes" with beaconing radios, placed in three of the support vehicles on 144.350Mhz. Further support was offered via FRS Channel 10, and police monitoring on Channel 12. Net control was handled by Roger KE5YTA and Tony KE5TGM during the event.



Walt KE5OOS, tracking APRS mobiles.

President's Corner

The event kicked off at 9AM with all operators accounted for and in place. The event concluded around 12N, plenty of time for our volunteers to get home and gobble down some of the that delicious turkey.

Special thanks goes out to our event volunteers:

Kevin W5DJK - Comm. Coordinator, Roger KE5YTA - Net Control, Tony KE5TGM - Net Control, Randy KE5JIT, Walt KE5SOO - APRS Tracker/Control, Andy KE5KOF, Jimmy KE5TUZ, Mike K5MIC, Chris KE5KPC, Ginger W5AAN, Vern KE5HXT, Bob KE5PHX, Bill KE5BTZ, Don W9VE, Jim W5OMG, Amelia KD5TXQ, Tom W5DH, Tim K5TGS, Scott KE5DKV, Jonathan N9OXE, Tom KE5ICX, and Bill AD8BC.

Like any event, we always are looking for volunteers. It was great to see “old timers” and “new DARC hams” participate. It is what keeps our club vital and engaged in our hobby. We have another event to participate in, the White Rock Marathon. While this is not a directly DARC supported event, it is a major event requiring over 60 hams for comm support. This event is on December 13 and is quite a spectacle to attend and support. Consider helping out.

Contact John Gavin (n5tim@arrl.net) ASAP and express your interest. You can also get additional information during the NTS Traffic Net, at 6:30PM on the DARC 146.880Mhz repeater or visit their Yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/d-wrm/>.

Consider helping out!

Pictures from Turkey Trot are posted at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ke5icx>



By Randy Patterson, KE5JIT@arrl.net

November has been a great month for weather and we are actually having a fall this year, the leaves are changing color with crisp mornings and comfortable afternoons.

This made for great outdoor ham activities in the area. Some events included, Touched by Suicide Community Walk, NCTech 2009 Hamfest – Azle, Turkey Roll Bicycle Rally, Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving Day and I am sure there were more.

I hope that everyone enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

This has been another good year for the Dallas Amateur Radio Club and its members.

We experienced one silent key from our 2009 membership roster, Wayne Carter, WA5LAP who was a regular on the nightly Traffic Net on the DARC repeater as well as always participating on the daily 7290 traffic nets.

Several club members lost or are losing their jobs in the next couple of weeks; some have been fortunate to locate new jobs and love complaining about the new job or the job they have had for years in some cases. We are a society of never being happy, I guess.

Wow, I wish I had the luxury of having a job I

could complain about having. Interviews are beginning to happen, so hope something good comes of them.

Even with being unemployed for nine months, I have a lot to be thankful for - good health, home, family support, friends and people that still like to talk with me or at least talk about me.

Most of all, I hope that you took a moment to be thankful, for what you have - job, family, health, a home to go home to, and all the things that we tend to take for granted.

As we move into the Christmas holidays, I wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please make note of the new location for our meetings. We are still meeting at the Brookhaven Church, 13000 Marsh Lane, but now meeting in the Youth Hall which is located on the street level.

You will now park on the North parking lot and enter the building through the double doors on the east side next to the children exercise area.

There is additional parking available on the east parking lot, if needed.

An update - The Metropolitan 2010, a intra North Texas mini-Field Day has had very slow response from members of the various ARC's.

The idea behind this event was to get multiple radio clubs committed to the event, share in ideas, cost, and planning.

The DARC would take the lead in finding a location, organizing the planning and negotiating agreement between all groups on location, cost, date, time, and what all would happen.

If we do not get participation from a majority of clubs, this event may not move forward the way we intended, but we are continuing to work on making it a reality.

Our hopes are for a date of the last weekend in April.

Stay tuned!

Some of the DARC membership went to Azle and participated in the NCTech 2009 Hamfest.

Turnout seemed to be smaller this year, but it is a great place to enjoy communications with our friends and make new acquaintances.

ARRL had a table set up and we were able to have some good discussions with Jay Urish W5GM and Roy Rabey AD5KZ. Jay agreed to get us brochures, published by ARRL, for hand outs in our trailer.

I mentioned last month that the generator/trailer was still in the shop with no end in sight and no resolution to the problem.

The board did receive some information from one of our members and we discussed with the authorized repair dealer.

I, also, took numerous trips to Powers, a generator repair location, and a trip to the generator manufacturer, Onan, in Arlington to discuss our concerns. We felt there was a lack of support from Onan to Powers, the local authorized dealer, in getting resolution to the generator issues. Unfortunately the generator has been in the shop continuously since 09/28, with different "error codes" ultimately preventing continuous operation.

As a result, I stopped all authorized spending and explained to Onan that with only 32 hours of use we should get better service from the unit, even if it was in storage for a year, prior to installation.

The generator was released later this month from the shop. We advised them we would monitor for the next 10 days, running periodically and report any issues.

For testing purposes the generator was run a minimum of two hours a day for multiple days over those two weeks. There was one issue during testing and it was discussed with Powers and reported to Onan for a factory representative to research.

We have just completed using it during Turkey Trot and no issues were experienced.

Odds and Ends:

The trailers – communications and generator trailer are now parked at their regular location.

The generator trailer needs its shell replaced and should be done as a project in 2010.

This unit has been a very good unit, although has some age, runs great and has been a great asset to us while working on building the communications center and also used continuously during Field Day.

Invoices and ballots were mailed after the November meeting with only a few returned with a bad address.

If you are a member and did not receive a ballot/invoice, please check with Bob KE5PHX during the December meeting so we can get updated information.

Recently I heard a discussion on the air this month regarding the names that were placed on the ballot for officer nominations and that it might be time to provide write-ins.

The names submitted for positions to be voted on during the December meeting are names of members who have been active; doing work for the DARC membership during 2009.

We would like to see more members step up and volunteer to help and be active.

Start the New Year out, mark your calendar for the first Tuesday of each month and make it a point to attend your club meeting.

Remember, you require your elected officers to attend a minimum of 8 meetings per year, so why don't you?

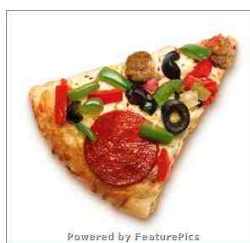
We had a great turnout for Turkey Trot and I'd like to extend a big "Thank You" to everyone who supported this event!

The weather was great; started cold but warmed up nicely.

We had one rider that needed transport by ambulance to the hospital and we had a large number of lost children this year.

The high number of lost children was due to multiple reporting, our lost/found operator would report and then our police operator would repeat, so the number we had versus the real amount of lost was probably substantially lower.

I have requested Kevin W5DJK, our PSO to have a "lessons learned" report to share at the December meeting. Our Net Control operators also agreed to send me their evaluation of our handling of the event. We would also like to determine what operational areas should be addressed with the Turkey Trot organizers for 2010 to ensure another successful event next.



The December program will be "Pizza and Show 'n Tell Night".

Everyone is encouraged to bring a pizza and share your favorite pizza. (There is a Pizza Hut and Papa John's very close; down near the Burger House).

The presentation will be open to anyone who would like to share something they built or found very useful in the amateur radio hobby.

Please keep your presentation to five minutes or less to allow for others to share.

Meeting night is Tuesday, December 1st at the Brookhaven Church, 13000 Marsh Lane.

Remember to bring your ballot sealed in the envelope provided if you forgot to mail.

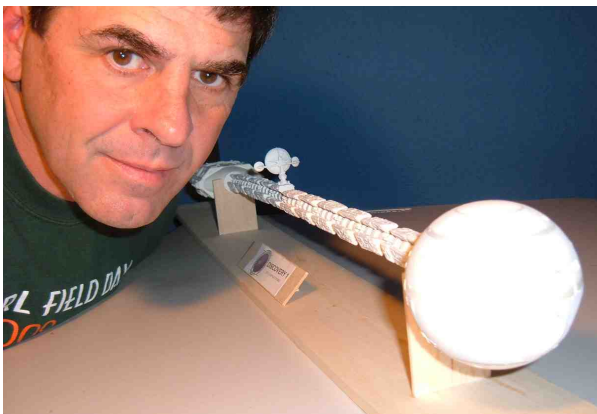
Ballots are to be turned in before the meeting starts at 7:00p.m. and will be counted during Show 'n Tell and Officers for 2010 will be announced during the regular meeting.

Hope to see you there!

'73's
Randy

From the Editor

by Tom General KE5ICX@arrl.net



My model of "X-Ray Delta One" the "Discovery" from the movies "2001" and "2010."

Another year has come and gone, and as I wind down my tenure as newsletter editor, I have to say it's been a very satisfying year. As many of you have noticed, I included a lot of color pictures in the electronic version this year, offering an attractive alternative to large blocks of text common from issues past.

This year we also added Mike N5MIC's considerable talents in the "Fox and Charlie" comic strip. Mike has committed and will continue to create this fun strip in 2010. I don't know of any other newsletter, radio oriented or otherwise, which gives their readers a chuckle in quite the same way. Last year Mike volunteered to add the strip to "In the DARC", month after month he proves his artistic talents!

I'd also like to thank Scott KE5DKV, for his timely board and general meeting minute submissions. Not only has Scott been complete in his reporting, but he's been timely. As the guy who has to put the newsletter together every month, I am very grateful he's done just that: one time submissions.

Randy KE5JIT, also provided his President's Corner on time for submission, so a thanks goes out to him for his efforts, not to mention his great job as president over the past two years.

What does the newsletter future hold? Well, I'm hoping we continue to integrate "on line" links and information via the newsletter. Since going "electronic" several years ago, I've included links to interesting and informative content that resides on the web. That content is both DARC and ham radio related.

The future will include other electronic media such as links to dynamic content; events which unfold on the Internet in "real time" to which you can simply "click and launch" to those links on the net. Other ideas include, perhaps, information on the latest satellite, ISS, or ham radio "breaking" events, which stream almost daily on the World Wide Web.



Promotional poster from the 1984 movie "2010: The Year We Make Contact"

On an interesting side note, I just picked up a Blu-ray movie, "2010: The Year We Make Contact", it's a follow up to the Stanley Kubrick masterpiece "2001: A Space Odyssey". Watching it today is quite interesting to see what the "future" looked like in the year "2010", back in 1984, when that movie premiered.

While watching the film I noticed there's no mention of "the Internet", the fall of the Soviet Union (the Cold War and Soviet Union is alive and well), or even the thought that "world communication" would become commonplace. It did and we live in a world much more advanced than that film suggested. However, I do like the name of the film, in part, "The Year We Make Contact."

Though the title has to do with meeting that big iconic Monolith from the first movie and coming to terms with its intent, I'd rather like to think in the real 2010 as the year amateur radio moves firmly into the 21st century with a plan of making contact with new and potential hams, telling them about just how fun this hobby really is.

It surprises me how many people I talk to who really think one must still learn Morse Code or slog through heavy technical toms on electronic and electrical theory. Perhaps through effective communication, on the internet, the newsletter, and DARC webpage we might change that "can't do it" impression.

And while we're discussing the Internet, it does make communication simple and trivial to accomplish, but, I think, there's still a deep seated interest in the average person to know more about the "people at the other end" of the "virtual wire". One thing, as a hobby, ham radio offers that the Internet cannot, is a commitment to the medium and fellow hams.

We can and do, reach out to our radio friends. The Internet, not so much, simply because a "friend" or contact you make on line, may just disappear tomorrow. It's very easy to "switch

gears" and do something else. And that's fine, if that's what the Internet is becoming.

But we, as amateurs, are committed to our community, to our hobby, and to each other. That's a powerful advantage over the Internet. I think that's why we do get new people in this hobby and it's how we'll get plenty more to join up. But we've got to tell them about why and what makes ham radio satisfying to its participants.

This newsletter, our webpages, and other "stored Internet" resources can act as a doorway to the ham world. My own interest in this hobby came from simply listening to the "This Week in Amateur Radio" (www.twiar.org) podcast which recaptured my interest in this hobby. It was the computer world that brought me to the ham radio world. For me, 2006 was "the year I made contact" and I've never regretted it. I'd love to turn on more people to ham radio. Hopefully you will feel the same way!

In February 2010, I'll be turning this newsletter over to another editor, I wish, he or she, the best and I'll do everything I can to help them be successful. It's been a great 3 years and, when my tenure concludes, I'll have 36 issues to show for it. So please help out that new editor and share your own ham experiences which he or she can put into print.

73, Tom KE5ICX

Minutes of the DARC Board Meeting of 3 November 2009

Present

President	Randy KE5JIT
Vice-President	David KD5RYM
Treasurer	Bob KE5PHX
Secretary	Scott KE5DKV
Director 1	Karl KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman KE5HYW
Director 3	James N5BKL
Director 4/Newsletter Editor	Tom KE5ICX
Director 6	Scott N1SAC

Absent

Director 5/PSO	Kevin W5DJK
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Guest

Robert N5AKA

Regular Meeting of 3 November 2009

The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:12 p.m. at the Brookhaven Church on Marsh and Valley View.

Introductions of board members took place by name and call sign for recorded purposes.

The meeting minutes for the month of October were accepted and approved by the board.

The board officially approved the expenses in the amount of \$237.35 for repair of the 220 repeater.

Randy requested that all board members re-familiarize themselves with the DARC Bylaws and also with the DARC Rules of Etiquette. As to better recognize inappropriate conduct on the W5FC repeater.

A recommendation was made and approved unanimously by the board to send a registered letter to Gary Gardner KB5RKI advising him that due to inappropriate behavior he will not be allowed on any W5FC repeaters in the future.

The board gave approval for the secretary to purchase enough postage for the mailing out and return of invoice and election ballots. The amount approved was approximately \$135.00. The mailing out will be done by Nov.9th.

The W5FC call sign will be used at the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning.

Randy has had contact with Onan concerning the generator for the trailer. Randy expressed to the representative his concern that the generator only has 32 hours of use on it and that it needed to be made useable. The generator is still in the repair shop and hopefully will be ready by Thanksgiving for the Turkey Trot.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

The meeting was called to order by the President of the club Randy Patterson KE5JIT at 7:10 PM at the Brookhaven Church, at the corner of Marsh Lon. and Valley View.

17 members/12visitors were present.

Club members and guest were introduced by name and call sign.

Bernie K5BP led the club members and guest in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Isabella N3JI gave his presentation on "Audio Practices in Amateur Radio".

The meeting minutes for the month of October were approved.

The question arose concerning the Aids Life Walk as to whether the DARC was needed for this event due to the fact that the officials and other volunteers had their own means of communication. Something to be considered in the upcoming year.

The W5FC call sign will be used for the Turkey Trot this year. More volunteers are stilled needed for this event. Anybody wanting to help can contact the PSO Kevin W5DJK at Public Service@ W5FC.org.

The DARC Trailer will be there and it is hope that the generator will be in working order. If not, then "Old Reliable" the WW2 generator will be on hand.

The Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2009

Checking = \$11,149.35

Whit Griffith Fund = \$5,466.62

Pay Pal = \$0.00

Expenses = \$237.37 Repeater expenses.

Bernie K5BP reported that the 220 repeater is operating correctly.

December Events

The December General meeting will be a Pizza Party/Show & Tell.

There will also be the election of club officers for 2010 during that meeting.

The following positions and nominations will be voted upon:

President	Tom General KE5ICX
V. President	Scott Clark N1SAC
Secretary	Mike Berry K2MIC
Treasurer	Tony Medina K5TGM
Director 5	Scott Drummond KE5DKV
Director 6	Randy Patterson = KE5JIT

There were no other nominations from the attending members. A vote was made and accepted to close the nominations.

Four volunteers will be needed to help inventory all DARC radio equipment.

Randy advised those in attendance that there has been a certified letter sent to an individual advising this person that due to inappropriate behavior they are no longer allowed to use any of the W5FC repeaters.

The door prize which was a gift certificate to Tanner's was won by Paul KA5FPT.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

Curacao for Christmas

Jim K5WLQ, is going to Curacao for Christmas and has invited anyone to feel free to contact him.

Jim hopes to be QRV as K5WLQ/PJ@ December 16th , he will be going QRT January 1st.

While in Curacao, Jim will be on 20 & 40 meters SSB & CW.

Date	Event
1	DARC Board Meeting, 6:00 PM Brookhaven Church (Youth Center).
1	DARC General Meeting 7:00 PM. This month's presentation is by YOU! Bring a project you've been working on and join us for "Show and Tell Pizza Night". <i>The General Meeting is now held in the Youth Center in the attached church office building. This is on the first floor. Please park in the north parking lot and come in the West Entrance.</i>
6	DARC Meeting on the Air at 7PM. Check in on the W5FC 146.880MHz repeater, or Echolink (W5FC-R).
20	DARC Meeting on the Air at 7PM. Check in on the W5FC 146.880MHz repeater, or Echolink (W5FC-R).
	<i>Red/Italic denotes a CHANGE in scheduling from last month. Please mark your calendar now!</i>

Other Events

12/12/09 – Sponsored by Tri-County Amateur Radio Club WC5C Azel, TX.

Ham Radio Orientation Class

Proposed class itinerary:

1. How to use Topographical Terrain Maps
2. How to use a Compass.
3. Celestial Orienteering Fox Hunting (Radio Direction Finding) using a Compass and a Map
4. How to use a Global Positioning System (GPS)Receiver
5. Automated Position Reporting Service (APRS)
6. Orbital Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio

More information is available at:

<http://www.wc5c.org/>

12/13/09 – Dallas White Rock Marathon
Contact John Gavin n5tim@arrl.net to
volunteer.

01/15 & 01/16/10 – Cowtown Hamfest
3400 Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, TX

<http://www.edtexas.com/hamfest/>

QRT

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

*E6F08: Which material will exhibit the greatest
photoconductive effect when illuminated by
infrared light?*

- A. Potassium nitrate
- B. Lead sulfide
- C. Cadmium sulfide
- D. Sodium chloride

Answer is: B. Lead sulfide.

Learn more about it at:

<http://www.faqs.org/patents/app/2009000149>

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On the Internet:
Space Weather



Updated daily, the Space Weather website
provides information on all things in orbit (and
beyond). The site also includes ham radio
information, when dealing with space as well as
useful information on sunspot cycles,
atmospheric conditions, and other ham
important information. It's worth a visit –
nearly every day! You can even request
updates on ISS flyovers via your cell phone!

<http://www.spaceweather.com>

FCC Wireless Communications Bureau



Find out what the FCC is doing in “ether
regulation”. Somewhat “dry” reading, but
there's always some gems on what frequencies
are getting government attention (and
sometimes “why.”)

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/>

Top Ham Radio Movies

Top Ham Radio Movies

Dave Bartholomew AD7DB has painstakingly
compiled information for every motion picture
featuring ham radio.

Some of the selections require a “freeze frame”
on your faithful VCR, but they are all here!

<http://www.qsl.net/ad7db/movies.html>

Cafepress



Looking for an usual gift for the “ham that has
everything,” consider picking something up
from Cafepress. Some offerings actually help

ham radio clubs and other non-profits (read the information on who is offering the T-Shirt, button, or other “tagable” object and decide accordingly.)

<http://www.cafepress.com>

(type in “ham radio” to get a complete list of offerings).