



IN THE

DARC



<http://www.w5fc.org>

Tom General KE5ICX, Editor January 2010

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

DARC Club Meeting - Tuesday January 5
 Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM
 Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC Board Meeting - Tuesday January 5
 Brookhaven Church 6:00 PM
 Meetings are in the Youth Center adjacent to the church.

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday January 3+17
 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 January 3+17
 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.

Welcome to 2010: "The Year We Make Contact"



by Tom General KE5ICX@ARRL.NET

Welcome to 2010. I want to thank Randy KE5JIT for his extraordinary efforts for the DARC over the past 2 years. He handled very tough decisions regarding the Communications Van and assembled a dedicated bunch of volunteers to move efforts forward to replace it with our new communications trailer. I'd also like to thank the most active DARC boards in recent years: President Randy, KE5JIT; Vice President Dave, KD5RYM; Treasurer Bob, KE5PHX; Secretary; Scott, KE5DKV; Directors Karl, KE5AVE, Herman, KE5HYW; James, N5BKL and our PSO/Director Kevin, W5DJK for their hard work and tireless dedication to the club.

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

2009 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Tom General KE5ICX
Vice-President	Scott Clark N1SAC
Treasurer	Tony Medina KE5TGM
Secretary	Mike Berry K5MIC
Director 1	Karl Borchardt KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman May KE5HYW
Director 3	James Shugart N5BKL
Director 4	Open
Director 5	Scott Drummond KE5DKV
Director 6	Randy Patterson KE5JIT

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: Randy KE5JIT and James N5BKL at the annual White Rock Marathon. Over 50 hams participated in this huge Dallas event.

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These individuals sacrificed time, money, and effort to accomplish what the club did in 2009, not the least of which was getting the trailer into operational order, coordinating our community service events, and maintaining our repeaters. Their efforts help to maintain the DARC and help it prosper for the future.

In December 2008 the trailer was used for its first communication event, the White Rock Marathon. At that event, radios and batteries were brought in as there was no actual power to the trailer and we had only installed the desk just a few days before, but just 12 months later, it was quite a different experience: heat, lights, power. All assembled by DARC volunteers. If you go to Picasaweb you can see the progress we made and the dedication that went into making that a reality. We have an asset to which this club can be proud of and is the envy of other clubs. It also represents the club's continued commitment to ham radio in general and for community and emergency events in particular.

This year, I'd like to see us utilize the trailer for our usual events and to promote the club through new venues. With our rediscovered "mobility" it's possible to visit places where other organizations dream about. We aren't restricted to a particular location, event, or activity. We are "mobile" in every sense of the word, and whether we support our community events or just "set up" at a local eatery, school, office complex, or other public gathering place, we have a resource and place where we can show off our hobby.

On another note, as some of you know, I do extensive travel during the week, and the antennas on my car do generate conversation at hotels, restaurants and the offices I visit. Several things come out of those unsolicited conversations: typically you'll talk to folks who instantly recognize them as used in amateur radio and mention a father, uncle, friend who was very much into the hobby. Others add: "I always wanted to be a ham but never took the time, or couldn't get through the testing." Of course "life" also gets in the way, and I am the

first to admit, my interests came out of the CB craze of the 1970's. I was reintroduced to this hobby via the Internet. I didn't know that Morse Code had been dropped for the initial license and was pleased to realize my basic electronics from high school would help me with the Tech license. I think there's a fair population of people who would join us if they knew it takes only technical and procedural understanding to get involved.

I'd like to see us reach out more to possible new hams, perhaps fulling from the ranks of IT, city/county emergency response, technical, and aerospace. Many new hams already come from these professions and do find their way into amateur radio. I'd like to see us go to them and it's another case for utilizing the trailer to promote DARC and ham radio.

Another thing I'd like to grapple with in 2010 is to provide a coherent image to the public. For years most clubs – DARC included – were and are represented by their repeaters. It is probably our greatest “promotional tool”. We gained many new members through users of our repeater system. But with the huge expansion of the Internet, our “community footprint” is much larger than many realize. Not only does our website generate exposure, but pictures, audio recordings, videos and more. Just type in “DARC” or “W5FC” and see what shows up. To interlink these resources so people get a complete picture of what we do would be beneficial.

For 2010 I'd like to propose a theme, “2010: The Year We Make Contact”. Science fiction fans immediately recognize that name as the motion picture title to the “2001: A Space Odyssey” sequel. Not a very good movie, in my opinion, but I love the title, and it makes sense as a nice “tag line” for this year. I guess, it's only good for this year – so I'll use it! At any rate, if there's one thing we can and should do, is “grow the ranks” and that means “we make contact”. Yes, this goal has been mentioned before and every president has made that commitment over the years – to varying degrees of success. The difference this time is

we have these new resources we've not had in the past.

Over the coming months I'll be asking the membership for their help and ideas. Please take the time to assist me here, I can use your expertise and willingness to help. I've already asked several people for their assistance in 2010 and some have already accepted. If you would like to help make the club more interesting, or fun, or informative, this is the time to speak up. I'd like to see more people stand up and be counted this year.

In years past we've routinely seen just 6 to 10 people volunteer for our major events, or work on the trailer. I'd like to see people decide they can help with the club by offering their talents. Volunteering doesn't always require going to an event, it can just be providing content for the webpage or newsletter. Mentoring a fellow member. Making a few phone calls or running a net. It's all about doing what works for the club and fosters a reason to be a member for you personally and for other members.

Another area: Some of our most active members are new to the club. It's our duty to engage them during their first few months as members and make sure they are getting what they want out of the club, as well as exposing them to new things concerning ham radio.

I know, with every change in the club causes disention within the ranks, and I'm sure, over the past four years I've caused rifts with certain members of the club. I don't know, I've not discussed it with anyone, but I'm sure that's probably happened. Being in a communications club, by the very nature of the subject, it's hard not to cause someone to “not like you”, however, one thing any member of this club should know is this: If you walk away from the club because of “me” or anyone else to whom you might have a “beef”, you are punishing the club, not me.

I've spoken to people who have quarrels going back to the 1970's! That's a long time to hold a grudge and not realistic. If you “sat out” over

the past year, or 30 years, you aren't doing yourself or the club any favors. If you are planning on walking away because you don't like someone on the board, or me, or what color we painted the trailer, then you aren't helping the club.

So here's the skinny: This is about what YOU bring to the club and what you want to do to make it better. Cutting ties doesn't do anything to help the club, nor make the hobby "better", what you bring to the club is what makes it "better". So before you run for the exits, consider what that does to your own credibility. If you have a commitment to this hobby, then you owe it to yourself to "make a stand" and bring your interest and commitment to the hobby you love. It's easy to say "Hey, they did me wrong." It's hard to say, "I don't care what they think, I'm gonna make a difference." It's possible to do just that.

Another thing to consider, and the reason I've stuck with DARC and this hobby is there are plenty of fun people, fun projects, and fun places. Did I mention "fun?"

As an example, we had more than one argument over building the trailer, but in that process we all ended up working together and made the compromises everyone has to make in order to create a successful project.

In this day and age of "combative politics" and loud mouth anchors on television (I miss Walter Cronkite), there's a general belief that to compromise or work with others is a "weakness". That's not true, this is about working TOGETHER to get something done, to put aside personal differences. That's how we managed to get a trailer built. And that's how anything is "built". Your active participation and cooperative efforts are what will make 2010 successful. Consider how you might make a difference. Mentor, sign up for public events, consider helping board members with projects and activities, helping your fellow, new ham, get started in this hobby. There's plenty to do, plenty for you to help out with.

On another note, I'd like to invite everyone to work with the new board: Scott Clark N1SAC, Vice-President, Mike Berry K5MIC, Secretary; Tony Medina KE5TGM Treasurer, Scott Drummond KE5DKV, Randy Patterson KE5JIT, Karl Borchardt KE5AVE, Herman May KE5HYW, and James Shugart N5BKL as board members. I've known and worked with these people over the past few years. They are all, active members interested in furthering the club. I'm confident they will provide the kind of leadership the club needs at this time and I look forward to working with them over the coming months. Please join us in making the DARC a fun, viable and exciting place to be!

73,
Tom KE5ICX

President's Corner



By Randy Patterson, KE5JIT@arrl.net

This is my last President's Corner and I would like to say "Thank You" to ALL the membership for the opportunity to serve the Dallas Amateur Radio Club. It has been a pleasure to working with the Board for the past 2 years and especially all members that stepped up and made the DARC a success and helped in our activities!

If you joined the DARC, renewed memberships, worked as a volunteer for our events, participated in Field Day, and/or used

the W5FC repeaters, you were part of helping make the DARC a success.

We realize not everyone can attend meetings for various reasons, but we do have a means of you keeping up with us through our website www.w5fc.org, MOTA (Meetings on the Air – 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month), 'In The DARC' newsletter and other posted or listed events.

2008 and 2009 were very busy years that we took actions; turned actions into results; tried to make some things happen and put the club on a path to move forward and prosper in the coming years while becoming more involved in our communities.

"Thank You" to all for your support and help!

Some of the items we worked on are:

- We brought back and then shelved Nut Net. We had up to twelve check in, but averaged about 6-8 weekly. We chatted and cut up, then some of us met at different locations to eat – all hams like to eat, right?
- We lost two Board members, Public Service Officer, and Programs Officers in the first half of 2008 due to personal reasons.
- We were very fortunate to not lose any officers in 2009.
- The majority of active membership voted in June 2008 to retire the Van and replace with a 16 Ft. trailer.
- A group of member came together almost weekly for nine months to build the new Communications Center.
- Members and non-members contributed to the cost of the new Trailer – resulting in not bankrupting the club, as some claimed this would do.
- Built the Communications Trailer using cabinetry, storage unit and a/c unit from van.
- Dealt with expired contract issue for repeater site.
- Updated w5fc.org website in 2009
- Worked with Dallas REACT on co-branding for successful Field Days.

- KE6LOU Richard, a former DARC PSO, helped bring up to speed and train a new PSO for the DARC.
- Received a donation of a AED unit to be installed in DARC for event – hopefully we will never have to use it.
- Several members have completed CPR/AED training this past month.
- We are now looking for repeater sites for D*Star units.
- We are looking at working with the Dallas Red Cross on supporting emergency response
- We are working on a Metropolitan 2010 Event – bringing DFW ARC's together along with agencies we support.
- We are have plans to upgrade the Generator Trailer in 2010
- We are working on brochures for our VE's to use and a package to give to new members – long overdue.
- Brought echolink to the 146.880 repeater in 2009
- Utilize u-tube for MOTA events.

We lost a 900 MHz repeater, when W9VE returned for repairs to the original donor. There were multiple attempts from multiple members and non-members to this individual to pick up the 900 MHz repeater and we were not able to get the repeater back. They had supposedly repaired and the response was always "I will have to dig it out of the garage; give me a call and we can set a time to pick it up". I trust they took their claimed contribution off their list of tax contributions since they did not keep their word and return to us.

An Update - The Metropolitan 2010 has had a very slow response from members of the 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, this event may not be able to move forward the way we intended, but we are continuing to work on it.

Meeting with different leaders in the area there are several groups interested in doing a Mentorfest for 2010, but still appears to be in the discussion period.

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

Stay tuned!

The ongoing repair drama with the generator in the communications trailer appears to be resolved.

We had a successful running of about nine hours during the White Rock Marathon with no issues.

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

The generator trailer needs its shell replaced and should be approved by membership to 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.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers who will be taking their positions at the beginning of our January meeting. I trust you will get behind them; become more active in events and provide your input to your club.

There are several great challenges starting us off in 2010.

I believe our new president has dubbed the year "2010 : The Year We Make Contact". He has some great ideas, I think you will enjoy working with him on. So with this I turn this corner over to KE5ICX – Tom. Congratulations to you and your officers!

73,
Randy

From the Editor

by Tom General KE5ICX

As I mentioned last month, this edition of "In the DARC" will be my last. Beginning next month Larry Melby KA5TXL, has volunteered and will assume the role of newsletter editor. I want to thank Larry for taking this position. He's aware of what it takes to put the newsletter together and still decided to take on the responsibilities. I'm pleased (and relieved) he is willing to step up and take over this task.

For me this will mark my 36th and final newsletter. I've had great fun doing this, and if I'd not be assuming the role of president, I would have continued in this capacity. I'm stepping down as I feel this is a "conflict of interest" and someone should independently report on DARC events. I will continue to contribute items to the newsletter, namely the "President's Corner" and I'll assist Larry in getting the February edition out.

I wish Larry all the best and, I hope, you'll give him the support you gave me.

All the best and 73,
Tom KE5ICX

White Rock Marathon



by *Randy Patterson* KE5JIT@ARRL.NET

After picking up our DARC Communications Center Trailer on Saturday evening, it was off to an early night to bed and an even earlier rise time for Sunday morning – 3:15a.m.

The weather was good around 43 degrees, but to our surprise, we had a very heavy fog to travel with starting at 4:15 a.m. to arrive at our AAC destination by 5:00 a.m. (and everyone thought things got started at 9:00 a.m. hi hi!) We had our left over partiers from Saturday night weaving all over the highway but we managed to get to the AAC area with no problems. Then the fun began! There was a wrong turn; moving of a fence; directing traffic; close traffic off to drivers and then finally arriving at our true destination.

We learned after getting the DARC Communications Trailer set up that we "could not park" where we had parked, so we had another 45 minutes of John working thought that challenge and the challenge of the gate not opening for the parking lot. I think a lot of folks thought John might have gone for breakfast since we were late getting going.

The long and short of it was another year of a lot of amateur radio operators coming together to help in a public service event.

Below is the summary submitted as our part of the communications process that was submitted to John and Garland for next year's planning:

First, congratulations to another successful Dallas White Rock Marathon! It was great working closely with John and Garland as we work through learning phases of the DARC Communications Trailer. Yeah, we had issues that occurred, but the good thing is there has been good constructive feedback and it gives grounds to think and plan for another year.



DARC Trailer in use at American Airlines Center

Here is some feedback from the DARC trailer team (KE5ICX, KD5RYM, N5BKL and KE5JIT), which most we discussed throughout the day yesterday:

- Have a more clear understanding between AAC and Marathon Event Planners where everyone is allowed to park.
- Discuss the possibility of Dallas REACT and DARC trailers be allowed in the upper flat area of Lot A
- Clear up issues with parking – at least second year with parking issues in early morning
- A more concise time needs to be posted for these events. Comm Plan called for Marathon

to close at 1430 (2:30). Needs to be clearer as to what time Amateur participants are able to shut down. Lot's are able to secure early, but in the case of the trailer, you have folks getting up at 3:00 a.m. to get there by 5:00 a.m., have an extra 30-60 minutes to break down and put away, travel time to store trailer at its location and then home, you have easy another 1 ½ - 2.0 hours. You easily have a 15 hour day for a minimum of two people. So going past 2:30 begins to be tiring.

- Possible do a dry run the week before for 2010 with the trailer set up to test equipment, what is needed/wanted/ required to have everything ready for multiple groups to utilize.

- We will be making some recommendations/modifications to help eliminate some confusion within the trailer. No reason to go out and invest in other filters etc. until we have evaluated and done more testing. Opportunities will be available in the very near future with events to do testing. Anyone interested in that event, let me know.

- Someone asked if we had changed anything with the DARC trailer from last year. As far as this event is concerned, - NO. We did complete building the trailer, but most of it was done before this even last year. All issues reported were on the 96 repeater which was connected to the antenna that was supported by John vehicle, not an antenna connected to the roof or side poles of the DARC trailer.

- We were parked in another area from 2008

- Stay away from steel light poles

- Possible relocate the nets to a different area than AAC – this area is well known for inter-modulation issues just driving in the area.

- Possibly have the Alternate Net Control work with Dallas REACT to communicate injured people returning on buses – there were a couple of incidents this year where it would have helped.

- Medic availability was an issue – not being able to locate. One issue of 35 minutes and still no medic – amateur radio staffers had to deliver a sick person to AAC – after we were able to locate facility.

I'm sure there is more I've forgotten or not mentioned.

Once again thanks for a great leadership team, thanks to everyone that provided feedback and thanks to everyone that actually participated in the event.

Randy Patterson, KE5JIT
DARC President 2009 & Trailer Support

Minutes of the DARC Board Meeting of 1 December 2009

Present

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

Absent

Director 5/PSO	Kevin W5DJK
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The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:09 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 November were accepted and approved by the board.

The certified letter that was sent to Gary Gardner KB5RKI advising him that due to inappropriate behavior he will not be allowed on any W5FC repeaters in the future has not been picked up from the post office by Gary. Per a conversation between Tom KE5ICX and

Regular Meeting of 1 December 2009

Gary, he is aware that he has correspondence from the DARC. Any DARC officers that hear Gary on any of the DARC repeaters have been instructed to order him off of that repeater.

The DARC will be receiving a 1.2 meg. and a 440 repeater along with an ICOM 880 for use in the communications trailer. The Frequency Pair paperwork has been turned in.

Randy Berger WA0D, is currently looking at two locations for the possible DSTAR repeater site.

Technical officer Bernie K5BP gave a brief description and the operation of a "Voter System" that the DARC might use in the future to improve repeater coverage through out the DFW area. The board agreed talk more about instituting a voter system in 2010.

Kevin Harkins W5DJK, has decided that he would not continue as the Public Service Officer for the DARC in 2010. Kevin has done a very good job in serving the club for the past year and a half. The DARC thanks him for all that he has done.

John Galvin N5TIM has requested and received permission by the board to use the 88 repeater for the White Rock Marathon Event on Sunday Dec.13.

The plaque recognizing those who had contributed money in the amount of \$300.00 or more in the construction and make ready of the DARC Communications Trailer will be purchased and available by the January 2010 General meeting.

The inventory of DARC equipment will be performed by the end of December 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

The meeting was called to order by the President of the club Randy Patterson KE5JIT at 7:16 p.m. at the Brookhaven Church, at the corner of Marsh Lon. and Valley View.

This being election night, James N5BKL, Bob KE5PHX, Kevin W5DJK and Scott KE5DKV went into an adjoining room to count ballots as other club members and guest enjoyed "Show and Tell and Pizza Night".

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

Kevin W5DJK the Public Service Officer reported that the Turkey Trot was a great success with 37000 participants which was the largest of its kind in the United States.

Kevin thanked all who helped out on this event. Training for the AED will be held on this Sunday Dec.5 beginning at 9:30 a.m and lasting until 1:30 p.m. The location is the Cardial Vascular Fitness Center which is on Greenville ave. near Presbyterian Hospital.

Kevin informed everyone that he would no longer serve as the public service officer for the DARC in 2010.

Randy and the club recognized and thanked Kevin for the great job he did as PSO for the past year and a half.

The Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2009

Checking = \$10,999.79

Whit Griffith Fund = \$5,612.23

Pay Pal = \$0.00

Expenses = \$123.20---Postage for invoices and ballots.

\$112.95---Generator repair.

Total = \$236.15

The club accepted and voted in the following as new members of the DARC;

Dale Finley KB5NFT(General) and Kevin Grantham AG5KG(Extra).

The new generator has been repaired. There was no problem with it at the Turkey Trot. The trailer will be at the White Rock Marathon. It has been advised that the generator should be started and ran at least once a week. The trailer in now back at the fire station.

The DARC election results are as follow with 62 ballots returned;

President	Tom General KE5ICX
Vice President	Scott Clark N1SAC
Secretary	Mike Berry K2MIC
Treasurer	Tony Medina KE5TGM
Director	Scott Drummond KE5DKV
Director	Randy Patterson KE5JIT

The inventory of DARC equipment will be performed by the end of December 2009.

After the inventory there will be a list of equipment that will be put up for sale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

Fox and Charlie



QRT

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

Which of the following parameters would a typical spectrum analyzer display on the vertical axis?

- A. Duration
- B. Amplitude
- C. SWR
- D. Q

B. Amplitude

Learn more about it at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spectrum_analyzer

On the Internet:

Running a net control station.

PRINCIPLES OF AMATEUR RADIO NET CONTROL
By Jerry Haag, KF6GAC, EC Mountain View

A handy guide on running a net control station as described by Jerry Haag, KF6GAC.

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/mtnview/principles-of-net-control.html>

WB8NUT's Digital Modes Information Page

WB8NUT's Digital Modes Information Page

<http://www.wb8nut.com/digital.html>

If you're looking for information on digital HF modes, James Beischel WB8NUT, provides extensive descriptions and sound samples of every conceivable digital mode.

Iphone/Itouch Applications

Use PSK31, locate AMSAT LEO's, find out band conditions, log into a local cluster – all done on these cheap, and many times, free applications for the handheld device.

<http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/iPhone/>

