



# IN THE

# DARC

February 2010

[www.w5fc.org](http://www.w5fc.org)

Larry Melby KA5TXL, Editor February 2010

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Masthead	1
President's Corner	4
From the Editor	6
Board Meeting Minutes	8
Regular Club Meeting Minutes	9

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

DARC Club Meeting - Tue Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM  
 Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC Board Meeting – Tue Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Brookhaven Church 6:00 PM  
 Meetings are in the Youth Center adjacent to the church.

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 17  
 146.88 MHz 8:00 PM - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
 Everyone is invited to listen, but only RACES  
 appointed stations are permitted to participate.

DARC Meeting on the Air - Sunday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 17  
 146.88 MHz 7:00 PM - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## *President's Corner*

by Tom General [KE5ICX@ARRL.NET](mailto:KE5ICX@ARRL.NET)

Hello and welcome to February. In my first “President's Corner”, I want to thank the membership for electing me President of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club for 2010. As we kick off 2010 I'd like to fill you in on some of the ideas and plans for the club. As is always the case, we have to take care of business and get “the basics” done first. These are the “every day” issues a club must handle.

### The Basics:

We are currently renewing our space at Flag Pole Hill at White Rock Lake for Field Day 2010. This location is ideal for Field Day providing us “all weather” operation. Whether it be hot, cold, rainy, or clear, it's a favorite location for a friendly, fun, and attractive place to make our Field Day contacts.

I'm happy to report Don Murray W9VE will be our Field Day Marshall. He'll be there to organize and coordinate Field Day setup, operation, and tear down. This is no trivial job and I'll be asking members to “sign up” and help him in various aspects of getting us “on the air” in June. We'll be discussing in the February board meeting an initial schedule for Field Day as well as ideas on how to “plot out” preparation. If you have an interest in helping us plan Field Day, we'd like you to show up for the meeting and offer your ideas. Organizing

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

2010 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Tom General KE5ICX
Vice-President	Scott Clark N1SAC
Treasurer	Tony Mendina KE5TGM
Secretary	Mike Berry K5MIC
Director 1	Karl Borchardt KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman May KE5HYW
Director 3	James Shugart N5BKL
Director 4	Bob Kelly KE5PHX
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](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 him if you have lost your membership roster password.

DARC REPEATERS:

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

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.

Copyright © 2010 Dallas Amateur Radio Club

security, setup and teardown. We will setup an email distribution list and sign-up process. If you've not volunteered or been involved in the club directly, Field Day is a great way to get your feet wet. It's also a lot of fun.

As an example, in the past, the DARC has run its usual HF operations on all bands (CW, Sideband, and digital modes), satellite low earth orbit contacts, beamed VHF contacts with Naval Air Station, Amateur TV, and many other. New technologies will contribute to the fun such as D\*Star, Amateur Radio Internet, Echolink, IRLP, and many others. The technical challenges and public rewards gleaned from these activities not only improve "our score" for Field Day but offer our members and visitors a glimpse into what we do in the hobby, as a club, and what we do in the larger scheme of communications in general. Field Day is the perfect venue to "show off" our capabilities and learn new things in a friendly, fun atmosphere.

In January we managed to get signature cards signed for the new board so we can write checks. Many thanks to Tony KE5TGM, Mike K5MIC and Randy KE5JIT to getting this done in a timely fashion. We are in the process of purchasing a new laptop for our Treasurer so he can continue our accounting with Quickbooks. With the cost of computers plummeting it only made sense we get a new computer (our current "desktop" is 10+ years old and not "portable") to run the program with the appropriate computing platform. We should have something selected and hopefully purchased by the February meeting.

Next, I'm happy to say, all the officer and board positions are filled for the first time in several years.

The New Stuff:

To start off, I'd like to announce Katherine KE5ZCM as our Programs and Education officer. I asked Katherine to take this position because of her active work in the club in 2009. For her personally, getting to know our

membership in ways most people don't get a chance to; through their technical and personal interests. Katherine has already come up with several great ideas for 2010 and as we discuss these ideas in meetings I'll be asking members to provide her with the support she needs to get "the job done". I would recommend, if you have ideas about what the club can do for its membership to contact her via the board email address: [board@w5fc.org](mailto:board@w5fc.org).

Another new officer is Andy KE5KOF who is our new PSO (Public Service Officer). Andy is active in volunteer and ham related events in the DFW area. He is also very active with several clubs in the area and made public service events his personal passion. I'm pleased he has committed to helping us on our 2010 events and I'm looking forward to Andy bringing his expertise to DARC and the public at large.

Lastly, I asked Larry KA5TXL to take on the position of Public Information Officer, which, by extension, he also takes on producing the monthly newsletter. As the former editor I know how much effort goes into doing the newsletter, and Larry said he would do it in spite of my "warnings". Larry has a long history of commitment to the DARC as well as president of the club. He's not afraid to take on responsibility and his willingness to do one of the more "work intensive" positions is a relief to me and a plus for the club.

I worked with Larry on the last year's Bylaws committee and he brings his previous experiences and sensibility to meetings. Larry contacted me back in the summer indicating his interest in taking over the newsletter when I mentioned that 2009 would be my last year. I continued to ask him if he was still interested as the January date came closer. He never flinched and stated he would do so.

In our upcoming meeting in February, Robby Robson WB5RVZ will be presenting "kit building". As anyone who does their own "solder and smoke" creations knows, you need certain tools, an organized assembly process,

and effective "bench testing" to ensure your project will properly work after assembly.

Robby goes even further than the standard hobbyist by showing how to organize kit parts so you don't "put the wrong part in the wrong place", earmarking documentation, and "fixing what went wrong". Robby has legions of Internet followers who find his methodology effective and useful.

His work has been translated into multiple languages and he receives considerable email on kit construction. I personally learned quite a bit about kit building and employed many of his suggestions in my own home grown and kit projects. Even if you are a seasoned kit builder of "K3" and "Heathkit" proportions you may find that one "really good idea" in his presentation. Please mark your calendar for Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The board meeting starts at 6PM and the general meeting begins promptly at 7PM. We meet at Brookhaven Church (in the attached chapel/youth center), 13000 Marsh Lane, Dallas, Tx. Members and non-members are welcome!

Speaking of the DARC meeting, you may want to "brush up" on message handling. Two winners will be selected on their efficient and effective handling of message traffic. I think this will be a fun little exercise. As many people know the American Radio Relay League was founded on "moving message traffic" in the early days of amateur radio and every operator should be at least, be familiar with this essential skill.

Finally, in the February meeting I'll reveal some more ideas for 2010 and will be looking for additional input and ideas to help us "make contact" with the public. Come to the February meeting and offer your support and ideas or send them to me [ke5icx@arrl.net](mailto:ke5icx@arrl.net) (or [board@w5fc.org](mailto:board@w5fc.org)).

Also remember that Skywarn classes have already begun for our upcoming Texas severe weather. Use this link to find one near you:

<http://www.skywarnonline.com/index.php?pageid=listclasses>

Of course the comprehensive “all day” class in Garland is:

Basic & Advanced

Date: 02/20/2010, 09:00 AM  
Location Name: Granville Arts Center  
Address: 300 North 5th Street  
Garland, TX, 75040-6352  
County: Dallas  
Contact Name:  
Phone: (972) 205-2780

Minutes of the DARC Board  
Meeting of January 5, 2010

Present:

President	Tom KE5ICX
Vice President	Scott N1SAC
Treasurer	Tony KE5TGM
Director 1	Karl KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman KE5HYW
Director 3	James N5BKL
Director 4	Open
Director 5	Scott KE5DKV
Director 6	Randy KE5JIT

Absent:

Secretary Mike K2MIC

The meeting was called to order by the outgoing president Randy Patterson at 6:03 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.

Randy provided to the board a list of inventoried DARC property and equipment.

Randy introduced the officers and board members for 2010 and then turned the meeting over to the incoming DARC president Tom General KE5ICX.

The December minutes were approved by the attending board members.

Treasurer’s Report for December 2009:

Checking:	\$12,113.35
Vanguard:	\$6,251.81
PayPal:	\$0.00
Expenses December:	\$120.42
Generator expense + fuel	\$47.02
Fuel for backup generator	\$41.00
Generator repair	\$56.90
Repeater clock module	\$110.00
PO Box Fee	
Total:	\$373.34

The audit was held on Saturday January 2. Everything went smoothly and no issues were found. All treasurer information has been turned over to the new treasurer Tony Medina.

The new President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary will have to meet at the bank to secure authorization for the signing of checks.

The board approved the purchase of a laptop computer, not to exceed \$750.00 to be used by the Treasurer.

It was recommended that Bob KE5PHX fill the vacant Director 4 position. That proposal will be brought up for a vote during the general meeting.

In reference to the registered letter that was sent to Gary Gardner KB5RKI and returned back to the DARC unopened, Randy sent a letter to the FCC lawyer Laura Smith containing an

explanation with copies of all correspondence that had been sent to Gary.

Randy KE5JIT will contact Randy Berger and they will continue to work on the D STAR program.

The board granted prior approval for the use of the DARC trailer in “no cost / low cost” events in the year 2010.

The following appointed positions were approved by the board:

Katherine Hall KE5ZCM as Education Officer.

Bernie Parker K5BP as Technical Officer.

James Shugart N5BKL and Randy Patterson KE5JIT as Property Officers.

Andy Parcel KE5KOF as Public Service Officer.

Larry Melby KA5TXL as Public Information Officer and Newsletter Editor.

Johnny Davis K5JD as the DARC Trustee.

Bernie reported that he will install the real time repeater clock module into the repeater in the very near future.

James, Bob, and Randy are working together in acquiring the plaque to recognize the donors that had contributed \$300.00 or more to the DARC Communication Trailer Fund.

The board approved Field Day 2010. \$310.00 was also approved to secure the pavilion at Flag Pole Hill.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

Minutes of the DARC General Meeting for January 5, 2010,

The meeting was called to order by the outgoing President of the club Randy Patterson KE5JIT at 7:08 p.m. at the Brookhaven Church, at the corner of Marsh Ln. and Valley View.

26 members/visitors were present.

Randy introduced the 2010 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Tom KE5ICX
Vice President	Scott N1SAC
Treasurer	Tony KE5TGM
Secretary	Mike K2MIC
Director 1	Karl KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman KE5HYW
Director 3	James N5BKL
Director 4	Open
Director 5	Scott KE5DKV
Director 6	Randy KE5JIT

Randy then turned the meeting over to the new President Tom KE5ICX.

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

Tony KE5TGM led the club members and guest in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom gave recognition to the 2009 Board for a job well done.

Tom gave a Power Point presentation titled “The Year We Make Contact.” He also announced the following persons in appointed positions:

Education and Program Officer - Katherine Hall KE5ZCM

Technical Officer – Bernie Parker K5BP  
Emergency Officer – Randy Berger WA0D  
Public Service Officer – Andy Parcel KE5KOF  
Public Information Officer and Newsletter Editor – Larry Melby KA5TXL  
Trustee – Johnny Davis K5JD

Randy KE5JIT and James N5BKL will serve as Property Officers.

The meeting minutes for the month of December were approved.

Treasurer's Report for December 2009: (See Board Meeting Minutes.)

Randy announced that the club inventory of equipment has been completed and there will be a list of excess equipment that will be put up for sale. The list of items will be on the W5FC website in the very near future.

The floor was opened for nominations to fill the empty Director 4 position. Bob Kelly KE5PHX was nominated and voted into that position.

The club voted in 2 new members:  
Michele Briggs W7LIF9 (Extra)  
John Briggs KC6TVF (Extra)

Technical Officer Bernie K5BP reported that the "Real Time" clock will soon be installed into the 88 Repeater and there should not be any more issues with incorrect time announcements across the repeater.

Tom discussed some of the goals and projects that he would like to see completed in the upcoming year within the club and he encouraged all members to join in with events and activities that the DARC has to offer.

The "Mystery Prize" which was a 1950's Signal Generator was won by Tony KE5TGM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

