

Presidents Corner



Greetings for March. This month I have a “laundry list” of things involving the DARC. I'm sure I'm missing a few things, but, I'll try and cover them in a future “President Corner”. I hope everyone is ready for our severe weather ahead and attended one of the many Skywarn classes available in the Dallas area. If not, please go to <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/> for additional information and consider signing up. Time is running out for certification for 2010!

New Tech Net

We are in the planning stages for weekly “Tech Net” on Saturday night (which will follow the NTS net) at 7PM. I've contacted Katherine KE5ZCM and Roger KE5YTA and they have agreed to share alternate net control responsibilities.

This net would allow new and veteran hams alike to talk about all things having to do with amateur radio. We'll get the word out on the 88 repeater and via Internet to remind people of the net.

The net would last about one half to one hour in length. Check-ins will also be allowed via Echolink, the VOIP Internet connection that's been operational on the “88” repeater for the last 10 months.

We are still soliciting ideas and topics for the net. If you have a particular interest or just want to show your support to our new net control stations, this is the place to do that.

We are planning our first net starting the week of April 1st. Look for announcements on the NTS net at 6:30 or the W5FC.org website.

MOTA

The Feb. 21st, DARC Meeting on the Air was rather popular with 18 check ins, two from Echolink. Bill AB8BC, was out of town and connected through an IRLP/Echolink gateway and a check in second from Germany. Arlo Konrad-Schneider, DH0VV and KG4TCG, and member of the German Amateur Radio Club (D.A.R.C. in German!) stayed up to 1AM in Germany to check into our net. Arlo, mentioned he recently turned 49, and works as a paramedic with a german coal mine rescue group near French and Luxembourg border. He's routinely connected to our repeater and is always up to a QSL.

On the MOTA net he offered to write QSL cards for either of his call signs for those who checked in. Please send your request to him directly: dh0vv@yahoo.de. Include your name, location, and that you were on our net so he can complete the card and get it to you ASAP.

To save on postage he's going to send the cards to me directly. Please get your request in the following two weeks in order to get your QSL card. Thanks, Arlo, for checking in!

Mentors Needed

I'm still looking for others who would like to act as mentors on ham topics, Digital comm., Emergency Response, Amateur Satellites, Antenna Building, New Ham Help, and other topics. If you have a passion or more than a passing interest in some aspect of amateur radio, consider signing up to help others. As we get inquiries via this net, e-mail or club meetings, we'll steer interested parties in your direction. Send your interest as mentor to board@w5fc.org.

Trailer Sightings – Frontiers of Flight Museum – Volunteers Needed

In keeping with this year's theme, “2010: The Year We Make Contact...”

We will be participating in the Frontiers of Flight, Tribute to World War II Flyers the 1st weekend in April. The plan is to set up on the grounds of the museum, located at Love Field in Dallas. Current plans are to run a 2-meter and low power HF station. We will be “open to the public”, meaning people will be allowed to tour at our communications trailer. Weather permitting we'll set up tables outside the trailer with demonstrations on satellite communication, “Get on the air!” license information, A video on The Legacy of Ham Radio during World War II, as well as handouts about DARC and membership. We will need people to volunteer to man the trailer. I'll also be working on possibly having an indoor display at the museum.

The Frontiers of Flight Museum was founded in November, 1988, by Kay Bailey Hutchison, Jan Collmer, and William E. Cooper. Their initial intent was to exhibit at Dallas Love Field the priceless artifacts, documents and photographs of the History of Aviation Collection donated to The University of Texas at Dallas by the legendary aviation historian George E. Haddaway.

Since 1988, the Museum has added to the Collection extensive artifacts dealing with the history of aviation from earliest days through today's modern military, commercial and aerospace vehicles.

In 1993, the George E. Haddaway Medal for Achievement in Aviation was created in honor of this renowned collector and aviation historian. Regional and national contributors to the field of aviation have been chosen to receive this prestigious award.

The original museum location was in the Love Field terminal on the second floor in a cramped space. In 2004, the museum moved into a brand new location, adjacent to Love Field and now permanently houses a number of vintage and classic aircraft in its new, spacious location. The museum is one of just a dozen in the United States housing the first “manned” Apollo spacecraft, the hardware used to put the United States on the Moon.

I will need volunteers for this event. We will also be discussing with museum staff the possibility of setting up a table inside the museum as well. I think this will be a very exciting

event and opportunity to “show off” our hobby. Consider helping out.

Other Projects

Randy KE5JIT has been working on converting over the van Operations Manual for the past six months. We need to update pictures, document processes, and validate current work. If you would like to help out on completing this project, please contact Randy directly, ke5jit@yahoo.com. I'm sure he could use some help!

Responsibility

Lastly, on a parting comment for this month, I continually ask for volunteers for various club projects and events. As we are a public service, non-profit, organization it's pretty much a “given” we need people to participate in various events. When people don't volunteer that work falls upon those who continually do. Please consider “signing up” for the many events and activities we participate in.

Also, when you do volunteer, consider “giving it your best effort”. What that simply means is, as the old adage goes “any job worth doing is worth doing well.”

There's always “more” you can do when you do volunteer. Many people feel dissatisfied in their work, or feel “others” don't give it their “best effort”.

Consider volunteerism as an opportunity to show others not only you want to give back to our community but also do so in a personally satisfying way. That kind of involvement is infectious. “Doing your best” is noticed and appreciated by others. Be that person who gives 110% (or more!)

Until next month, “73”

Tom KE5ICX@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 2010 BOARD MEETING

DARC Board Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 6:15pm by DARC President Tom KE5ICX. 12 people in attendance. Minutes of the previous month's board meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer:

11,875.62	Checking
6328	Vanguard
0	PayPal
50	Expenses – Repeater Rental
310	Expenses – Field Day Deposit

Meeting at Bank of America took place to finalize the new officer's ability to sign for club expenses. Officers in attendance: Tom KE5ICX, Tony KE5TGM, Mike K5MIC. Tom KE5ICX turned over new club computer & case to Treasurer Tony KE5TGM.

Field Day: Don W9VE has agreed to serve as 2010 Field Marshall.

D-Star Update: Awaiting word from Randy Berger.

Public Service: DARC is looking for locations & public events to display the Trailer and raise public awareness of amateur radio and DARC. Submit any suggestions to the board.

Red Hot Chili Pepper Run: Scott KE5DKV volunteers to represent club at planning meeting.

Events: Metropolitan 2010 Event is scheduled for last weekend in April. More info to come.

100th Anniversary is coming in 2014. More info to come.

Programming: Katherine KC5RHE sought program suggestions for future meetings. Submit all ideas to KC5RHE.

Technical: Bernie K5BP will report out in club meeting.

Property: Herman KE5HYW will post photos of items for sale & prices on-line.

OLD BUSINESS

James N5BKL reports the plaque for the trailer is in progress.

Nominations are being accepted for the Whit & Ann Griffith Award.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter from FCC, regarding Club's actions last month, will be kept on file & no further action is required.

\$363 for liability insurance was voted on and approved.

Pay Pal is working on the website. Thanks to Herman KE5HYW.

Payment for 3 year domain payment was voted on and approved.

Suggestion: Allow club members to renew club membership via PayPal.

Motion to close the meeting passes.

FEBRUARY 2010 DARC CLUB MEETING

February DARC club meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7:10pm by DARC President Tom KE5ICX. Attendance: 29 members, 10 visitors. January minutes were voted on and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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this event focuses on DX stations working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period.

"Conditions during last weekend's CW contest were, by all accounts, very good indeed," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Fifteen Meters was open for extended periods of time, allowing excellent QSOs to be made from the US and Canada to all corners of the globe. Even 10 meters decided to show up for the party, with openings both Saturday and Sunday to South America and Africa, with a sprinkling of Europe thrown in for good measure."

For the veterans, it was a delight to have good propagation on the higher bands again. For the more recently licensed, it was a chance to finally experience an opening on bands that have more or less remained dormant due to the extended low in the 11 year solar cycle. "I've had some Old-Timers in my local club tell me 10 meters would open like this, but I've never heard it open before; I didn't believe them," one newly licensed amateur told Kutzko. "Now I get it. It was exciting. I had a great time!"

Just as in the CW contest, US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX -- this means that stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada.

How can you participate? You are only limited by your imagination and willingness to get on the air. If the high bands remain active, even stations running 100 W and a dipole or vertical antenna will work a lot of DX. If you live in an area where antenna restrictions exist, take your contest effort on the road! Operate from your car, set up a portable antenna in a park or campground or see if a friend's station is available. If you have a station and won't be using it, consider opening your doors to members of your club and let them try their hand at working some DX. If you make 100 QSOs, you are eligible to purchase a commemorative pin for your efforts!

The ARRL DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 6 through 2359 UTC Sunday, March 7. Complete rules and forms may be found [online](#). The high bands are finally showing signs of life. Why let all this DX pass you by -- get on the air and have some fun!

From the ARRL Letter

Attention All Amateurs...



IARU Region 2 and Radio Club de Chile Request Amateurs to Keep Emergency Frequencies Clear (Feb 27, 2010) -- A massive 8.8

magnitude earthquake hit Chile today at 0634 UTC, triggering a potential tsunami. [IARU Region 2](#) and the Red Chilena Nor Austral de Servicio ([RECNA](#)) have suggested Amateur Radio operators monitor [the following](#)

[emergency communications frequencies for traffic pertaining to the earthquake and tsunami](#): 3.738, 3.750, 7.050, 7.100, 14.200, 14.350, 21.200, 21.350, 28.300 and 28.500 MHz. IARU Region 2 Area Emergency Coordinator Jorge Sierra, LU1AS, reports that there is now traffic at frequencies of 40 meters from people seeking information from people in Chile: "We would appreciate if amateurs would leave free the frequencies used by RECNA, as well as the usual IARU Region 2 frequencies on in 20, 40, and 80 meters." In addition to the above frequencies, you may also want to listen to the worldwide emergency communication Center of Activity frequencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. Other suggested monitoring

frequencies are 3.720, 7.045 and 7.060 MHz. Hawaiian Amateur Radio operators on the lookout for a possible tsunami are monitoring 7.088 and 3.888 MHz. -- *Thanks to Radio Club de Chile's ([RCC](#)) Emergency Coordinator Aldo Oppici, CE3WAD, and W2VU, KI6SN, K3ZO, PY2ZX, PY5YA and El Grupo Argentino de Radiotelegrafia for the information.*

ARRL Website

From the editor

I'm trying out several changes to IN THE DARC. I for one find it easier to read articles in this layout as opposed to the standard column format. Another change is deadline for submissions. It will be a standard deadline of the 15th of the month for the next edition. My goal is to get the newsletter into the hands of the members no later than the Friday evening prior to a club meeting. Also I'm not that talented so I need the help of the members of the club to make this a great newsletter. So send me your articles, or suggestions for stories to ka5txl@arrl.net 73 de KA5TXL

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 Medina 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.

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	

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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UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

DARC Board Meeting - Tuesday March 2nd
Brookhaven Church 6:00 PM
Meetings are in the Youth Center adjacent to the church.

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday March 7th + 21st
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 March 7th + 21st
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.

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