



IN THE DARC

www.w5fc.org

Larry Melby KA5TXL Editor June 2010+

President's Corner

Welcome to June!

It's a busy month for ham radio in Dallas! First, we have HamCom June 11th and 12th. The DARC will be in the “thick of it.” Our plan is to have the communications trailer at HamCom and while it's there we'll give it a proper “shake down”.

What does that mean?

Well, we've been to a number of events over the past year but, as we've learned through, “set up” and “tear down”, stowing equipment, and general operation, we do things differently at each event. Sometimes the toolbox ends up in the back trailer racks, sometimes behind a locked cabinet and other times – well, we don't always know. Antennas, coax, clamps and general radio gear of all sorts inevitably find “new homes” leaving the next event coordinator in the dark as to where the last bunch put things.

Our plan is to document what we do with equipment at the trailer during HamCom. We'll also knock around existing and new ideas for operation and ultimately complete the procedures manual we've been working on. HamCom can be a great way of achieving our objectives in a fun atmosphere with many people participating. We have no time constraints and no need to set anything up for a specific event (except maybe NTS on Saturday). Of course we'll also take many pictures, marking additional panels, cables and the like, while still enjoying the biggest ham event in the Southwest.

Since many DARC members will be at HamCom, this will be an opportunity for you to help out! You'll find us in the Plano Centre parking lot. Just drop in and say, “I'm here to help!” We will put you to work!

Ham-Com 2010 is Friday & Saturday, June 11-12 at the Plano Centre.

June Meeting – Field Day Planning

Our June meeting will be our annual planning session for Field Day. Please be ready to give your input and ideas for this important meeting. Don W9VE is our “field marshal” this year and he'll be looking for your help at White Rock Lake and your ideas to speed set-up and operations.

Speaking of FD, we'll need radio operators. Surprisingly, this is the most difficult “position to fill.” It seems many folks (I'll raise my hand on this one) aren't always keen on getting into a “contesting mode” and running a station. There's nothing to fear! We'd like to break that “fear factor” and get folks working together and enjoying this fun challenge. Pairing people up for stations – hopefully seasoned hams with new people to operate steadfastly during the weekend. Our goal: launch folks into HF with style. So take notes, we'll be asking our most experienced members to “spill the goods” on

great HF operation.



And the call goes out: if you are a contester, you need to tell us your “secrets” and what motivates you to spend “time in the chair”. Don't forget bring your scientific calculator to explain the mystical/magical world of “multipliers.”



Field Day is always the last weekend in June. This year June 26th – 27th. We'll be setting up Saturday morning and tearing down Sunday afternoon this year.

Depiction

May's presenter was our own Dale KB5NFT, who gave us an interesting presentation on “Depiction”, an event/disaster programming aid used to quickly build custom, interactive maps of disaster responses, race events, integrate online maps and imagery with custom information; even overlay “live” APRS data. Dale showed us how to plan for events and dynamically create alternative course of action when “things change” at events. It's obvious “Depiction” can be a net control operator's best friend, by providing real time data on a laptop allowing for email and radio interaction and planning with hams and non-hams alike. Recently Dale used this software at the Wild Ride Bike Rally, so we'll have to find out how that worked out at our next meeting.

James Jones KE5JAX SK

James Jones KE5JAX unexpectedly passed away May 4th. James was an active member of the DARC and had recently coordinated the Frontiers of Flight event at Love Field. James had also participated in Field Day 2009.

James attended Highland Park Schools and earned 2 degrees in History and Geology from Texas Christian University. He graduated with honors. He also attended Cambridge University in England. He received his Juris Doctorate from Tulane Law School. James was a devoted son and caregiver to his Mother, and he was a loving father to his 2 dogs, Spirit and Sierra. Later in life when asked what he most would most liked to have been, he replied, "A Don at Cambridge."

73, James, you will be missed by your fellow hams.

Wild Ride Bike Rally

The 2010 Wild Ride Bike Rally and 5K Walk was held on Saturday, May 15th, benefiting the Methodist Richardson Cancer Center, the ride traveled a new 64 mile route from Richardson over the Lavon dam out to Josephine, TX and back. A 5K Walk was held at the same time.

The DARC trailer was there providing support. Several DARC members participated; Andy KE5KOF, our PSO, Dale KB5NFT, who took the trailer on site, and Roger KE5YTA who also helped with trailer set-up.

The event was supported via VHF voice, APRS, and 802.11 private digital wifi. Each rest stop had a VHF base station operator and a digital operator who is to be connected to the internet. Digital still pictures were taken and sent over the internet to the Start/Finish line for display.

New Links

As we continue to refine our club presence on the Internet, we've continued to work on various ways to reach out to new hams and give you, our faithful club member, a modern method of keeping up with club events and activities.

Here are some resources you may not be aware of:

The DARC website: www.w5fc.org

Our premier web presence provides a slick "new" look with hot-links to new and popular articles. The links are created dynamically allowing for several authors to contribute material while automatically creating an index so users can select any article from any author from one place.

For those of you who like an even more "high tech" delivery system, you can select the RSS feed which will "push" articles to whatever aggregator you use. RSS readers are built into most email programs and you can read new articles much like you read email. You can try the link here:

<http://w5fc.org/index.php?format=feed&type=atom>

Yahoo Group W5FC

We have a Yahoo Group “W5FC” where you'll be reminded of DARC events, meetings, and inquires via email, or visit the website.

Currently sign up is easy. It's possible to sign up and contribute articles, pictures, and links.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w5fc/>

Twitter

Get updates on nets, activities, and/or anything happening NOW!

Go to www.twitter.com and find “w5fc” and subscribe. We'll make sure you are up to date on what's happening in the club, including DARC nets, interesting ham radio activities, and/or quickly developing news of ham radio interest.

If you've not “tweeted” you are missing out on an addictive new aspect of the Internet and now, ham radio.

I hope to see everyone at our coming meeting June 1st. We meet at Brookhaven Baptist Church 13,000 Marsh Lane in the Youth Group/Chapel on the main floor. The board meeting begins at 6PM with the general meeting commencing at 7PM. Park on the north side of the building for easy access.

Minutes of the DARC Board Meeting of April 6, 2010

Present:

President	Tom KE5ICX
Treasurer	Tony KE5TGM
Director 2	Herman KE5HYW
Director 4	Bob KE5PHX
Director 5	Scott KE5DKV

Absent:

Vice President	Scott N1SAC
Director 1	Karl KE5AVE
Director 3	James N5BKL
Director 6	Randy KE5JIT

The meeting was called to order by the DARC President Tom General at 6:10 p.m. at the Brookhaven Church on Marsh Lane and Valley View.

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

The April board minutes were approved by the attending board members.

Tony KE5TGM gave the Treasurer's Report which can be found in the regular club meeting minutes.

The Secretary position is still unfilled and open at this time.

Don W9VE will contact the City of Dallas and inform them that the club will hold its Field Day on Saturday and Sunday instead of starting on Friday evening. That way the pavilion at Flag Pole hill will be free for other events on that Friday

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

Minutes of the DARC General Meeting for May 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by the President of the club Tom General KE5ICX at 7:10 p.m. at the Brookhaven Church, at the corner of Marsh Lane and Valley View.

33 members / visitors were present.

Jay W5GM led the club members and guest in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Attending members approved the April meeting minutes.

Dale Finley KB5NFT gave a presentation on software titled "Dipliction" which is an "Events and Disaster" planning and mapping program.

Tom KE5ICX, Don W9VE and others commented on the passing of past DARC president Martin "Sandy" Sandberg N5NBW.

Up coming events will be "The Wild Ride Bike Rally" on Saturday May 15 and "HamCom" on June 11 and 12. "Field Day" will be on June 26 and 27. The DARC Trailer will be at each of these events.

The Treasurer's Report as of May 4, 2010

Checking:	\$11,393.37
Vanguard (Ann and Whit Griffith Fund):	\$7,620.57
PayPal:	\$71.91
Expenses for April 2010:	\$50.00 Repeater Site \$27.79 AT & T \$122.47 Trailer Donor Plaque \$363.00 Liability Insurance Payment Reimbursement \$16.15 Gas, Wounded Warriors Event

\$30.00 Stop Payment Fee

Total: \$609.41

Tony Mendina, Treasurer, DARC

Tom displayed the plaque representing all of those who contributed time and money in making the DARC Communications Trailer a reality. The plaque which is engraved with names and call signs will be mounted somewhere inside the trailer.

New DARC member Glen Kitto N5OD was unanimously welcomed into the club.

Technical Officer Bernie K5BP reported that there was a slight glitch with the 88 repeater but after a re-boot of the system everything is working well.

Katherine KE5ZCM thanked Roger KE5YTA for his help as net control on the weekly “Tech Talk” net. Katherine and Roger are to be commended for their outstanding service in keeping this net moving along.

Door Prizes included grab bags containing assorted electronic and “radio stuff”. A “Grip Drip Meter” both of which came from the DARC excess inventory. Also Repeater Directories, a T-shirt and a Mag-Light which was donated by Jay Urich .

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.
Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV



Letters From Len
June 2010
N.T. "Len" Carlson, K4IWL

One of the *disturbing* things that I have become painfully aware of in the past several years, is the language that has crept into the Ham Radio vocabulary from the "11-meter banders" who have migrated to this hobby. Don't get me wrong, some of my best friends have come to this hobby by way of the "Channel One Nine" crowd and we are glad to have all of you join us and enrich the ham bands. In fact, at one time, **I was licensed as 18W5145**. Guess what year that was? You've probably never seen a call without a 'K', 'N', 'A', or 'W' as the first letter of a US call sign before. Yes, it was legal and assigned by the FCC. Those licenses went away a long time ago. Of course, I was a ham long before I was on CB. I was first licensed as a Novice in 1952 and have never lapsed my license or abandoned the hobby in all those years ... even when my wife complained. I almost never operated on the "chicken band" and had applied for the license and put a CB rig in the house and one in my car only so my wife could "call" me to stop at the grocery store when I was driving home from work. There were no cell phones back in the late 50s. Bad idea! Why? Because she never once ... ever ... called me on the radio. So much for her adventure into technology and the cost of two radios.

I used to operate AM on 11-meters when it was still a ham band. It was the only ham band back in the 50s that was legal to operate full duplex on AM. I was in high school and every morning before going to school I would get on 11-meters and play chess with a school chum of mine who had gotten his ticket at the same time that I did. I would tune my transmitter to the lower band edge and he would tune his rig at the upper band edge and we would key the transmitters continuously while we made our chess moves. It was kind of like talking on the telephone.

In this edition of *Letters from Len* I am focusing on our hobby and offering some insights into it.

Ham radio is over a hundred years old and is steeped in tradition. It is those traditions that make ham radio very special and, as I've stated before, most hams with 30 or more years in the hobby started at a time when you either homebrewed, built kits (mostly Heathkits), or bought military surplus equipment which had to be modified. Of course there were some "store bought radios" you could buy but I had no money and most of my friends had no money. In other words, we had to be more than just operators. We had to be technicians, design engineers, and tech support all rolled up into one. Much of the language we use came from those roots. There were a few who didn't build their rigs and were not interested or proficient at building their equipment and many of those didn't even know how to build or put up an antenna. We had a term for them: "Appliance Operators."

The 100-year ham radio legacy and traditions created a new language which belongs *only to ham radio*. It is special and should not be forgotten or abused. Am I sounding like a *Purist*?" I will proudly accept the *purist* moniker. Personally, I believe that one of the FCC license tests should be on the *ham lingo*! But then that's just me. However, I'm encouraging those of you who are using the non-ham *lingo* listed below, think about it, and start getting in touch with our hundred year traditions. We are special and we should keep our hobby special.

To start this off, there are two terms that I've heard frequently on the repeaters and even on HF Phone in the past few years.

UNIT: This obviously refers to a piece of amateur equipment and mostly I've heard it used in reference to transmitting and receiving equipment. In ham radio **we don't use units**, we use **RIGS**.

Yep, this is a good one to use the next time you're talking to one of your buddies on 88 to show off your knowledge of ham radio lingo. A rig is a transmitter or transceiver. This term probably came into being because we had to "rig them up" with everything from spare parts to bailing wire back in the old days. *Receivers* are typically called *receivers*. Unfortunately many of the ads you see, even in QST, use the term *unit*. They also sell 11-meter hardware but that's their problem.

BASE STATION: Of course, we've all heard this one used (even by some of the older hams in recent times). This is a term that also came from the chicken band. In ham radio, we have three basic types of stations:

- **Mobile**: This one is obvious and needs no explanation.
- **Portable**: This is a temporary station set up away from your licensed location. The FCC has relaxed the rules in the past few years about how we use this when signing our calls, but, if you're operating away from the location that is printed on your license then for all intents and purposes, you *are operating portable*.
- **Fixed Station**: Now we have gotten down to it. This is the term that has been replaced by **Base Station**. When you're operating from your home location or a permanent site then you are operating **FIXED**. For example, "My fixed station is a Collins KWM2." In the "old days," I've even heard a couple of hams say, "I'm operating fixed mobile." That's one that I'll never figure out unless you're in your car and the wheels have been removed and it's up on blocks. I've also heard some say, "fixed portable." I won't even comment on that one.

Unfortunately many of the manufacturers have been using *Base Station* in their ads and some have even called transmitters and receivers *Units* but that doesn't make it right. These terms originated with the *chicken band*. Be proud of your hobby and those pioneers who came before you by learning the traditions and language of this very special hobby. Pass it on to your fellow hams and new hams.

You are probably not aware that Part 97 of the FCC ham radio regulations used to specifically define stations as Fixed, Portable, and Mobile? They dropped those terms from the regs a few years ago when the rules were relaxed about appending Portable or Mobile to your call when operating on the bands. Traditionally BASE STATION and UNIT have no place in our history and should have no place in our language.

PERSONAL: Today, I was listening to some local 2-meter QSOs and just happened to hear one of the guys say, "The *personal* here is Tom." Omigod! I almost fell out of my chair. That language needs to stay on 11-meters. Fortunately you don't hear that on CW. We don't have a **personal** in ham radio! We do have a "***handle***" in ham radio. You can also use "***name***" although it's not as historical as ***handle*** but it's **OK** and commonly used on CW.

OH YEH! DON'T EVER SAY, "MY 20 IS ..." ON THE REPEATER or the Ham Bands!!!
That's a no-no!

I hope that new hams, those with less than 15 years in the hobby, will Google the history of ham radio and its traditions and really begin to realize what a wonderful hobby we have and how special it is. There is no other hobby in the universe that is licensed and protected by government regulation. We are special and it is up to every one of us to protect what we have. Don't be a "***lid***". Look that one up in the ham dictionary.

73, N. T. "Len" Carlson, K4IWL 57 Years licensed Awarded QCWA Century Club certificate in 2009

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	

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

DARC Board Meeting - Tuesday June 1st
Brookhaven Church 6:00 PM
Meetings are in the Youth Center adjacent to the church.

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday June 6th
146.88 MHz 8:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Everyone is invited to listen, but only RACES appointed stations are permitted to participate.

HamCom 2010 Friday and Saturday June 11th -12th
Plano Civic Centre www.Hamcom.org

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

ARRL Field Day 2010 Saturday and Sunday June 26th -
27th Flag Pole Hill

DARC Tech Net every Saturday evening at 7 PM
146.88 MHz

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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