



The **HOTLINE**

Official Newsletter for the
Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club
Waco, Texas

Volume XXVIII, Number 2

February 2003

To those who have already renewed: **THANK YOU!!**
For the rest of you: **What are you waiting for?!** Send in your
HOTARC Dues and [Membership Renewal Form](#) now and
continue to be a part of the fun and service to Central Texas!

Hands-Free Idea for Hams

by Stan Russell, KD5RWX

Do you wish you had a third hand during those hectic DX contests? Does your arm get tired holding on to the microphone and transmit button during a long QSO?

Well, there is a solution at hand and Larry Bush, W5NCD and builder extraordinaire, will tell us all about it at this month's meeting.

Larry has come up with an interface that permits hands-free operation using an inexpensive headset and foot switch to control the Yaesu FT-1500. It may be designed for the Yaesu, but the basic plan will work with just about any radio with some modifications.

Larry got the idea for the interface from a need by his son David, KC5UOZ, who does the nightly Amateur Television Net and Central Texas Slow-Scan Group over on the 147.24 repeater. He asked Dad to design an interface that would allow hands-free operation using a headset and foot switch to control the 2-meter transceiver.

Larry's project uses the *Altec Lansing model AHS15* which retails for under \$15. The foot switch comes from Radio Shack at \$5 and the rest of the parts bring the total project in around \$35.

Larry will be showing us his interface and explain the ins and outs of building one for yourself. And, as he does so well, Larry will answer questions from the membership.

This will be a fun project you'll want to try for yourself. This is a lightweight and low-cost addition for any ham shack. So make sure to come out for the February meeting and hear all about it.

For those who want to "jump the gun" and see Larry's specs for the project, go over to his Web site, www.sstvham.com.



As unanimously recommended at the last meeting, we are now accepting donations for a plaque to honor James E. Lovett, AC5HV SK. Please give your donations to the Club Treasurer. Thanks!

QRV? (Are You Ready?)

by Ed Middlebrook, KC5NT

How Ready Are You?

With all of the world's events that have taken place in the short time since we last met, I find myself asking, "How ready are you?" I am in the process of taking a personal inventory of my equipment and supplies to build my "Go Kit". However, what I'm finding is that I'm lacking supplies in various areas and so I'm asking you to think about that question as well.



The loss of Columbia on February 1 was a terrible event for our country, but the aftermath brought out the very best in Amateur Radio. The ability to quickly assemble a portable command station and supply various government agencies with radio communication services impressed many. Our McLennan County Emergency Coordinator, Ed Hynan (KC5KNI) took part and reported on the search activities in East Texas. Hearing Ed's report made me think about keeping extra clothing available and especially purchasing a good pair of hiking boots that are warm and waterproof.

The public at large is now asked to consider purchasing food and supplies to be used in the event of an emergency. We need to follow suit, but yet go further to prepare for situations in which we will need to provide emergency radio communication to the public. Take a look around your shack. Do you have some of the following?

Batteries	5 watt HT	Chargers
Molex power connectors	Portable antenna	Spare microphone
Coax	Coax connectors	Repeater directories
Maps	Radiogram pads	Pens and Pencils

This is just a small list, but it should be enough to get you started. While this will get you thinking about some of the supplies, let's not forget about training. There will be a number of special events this year that you can take part in to prepare yourself for portable operations in an emergency. Also, there are quite a number of HF and VHF nets that you can participate in just about every day of the week. All of these activities will help you prepare yourself in the event that our services are needed.

Look for other articles on emergency preparedness in this issue and if you're not an [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (ARES) member, I urge you to join. The ARES organization allows us to all work together in a fluid fashion and provide a real service to government agencies and the general public. Let's get ourselves READY to serve!

Ed Middlebrook, KC5NT
HOTARC President

Code Practice on 2 meters?

Would you be interested in a weekly code practice session on 2 meters? All you need is 5 words-per-minute to satisfy the code requirements for the General and Extra licenses. Let us know how you feel about it!

For the Record...

HOTARC Meeting of Members January 23, 2003

The January Meeting of the Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Ed Middlebrook KC5NT at 7:08 p.m. at the Kultgen Automotive Building on the campus of TSTC, Waco. Present were seventeen full members, one family member, and three visitors.

The visitors recognized were: Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW, Mark Plough KD5DWE, and Dustin Emhart KG4EHZ.

The Minutes for the December Annual Meeting were approved as published in the HOTLINE, following a motion by Otto Hackfeld KI5QT, second by Horace Bushnell W5TAH, and unanimous vote by the members present. The November/December Treasurer's Report as published in the HOTLINE was also accepted, following a motion by Mike Ross N5MVL, second by Rodney Baden K5YKC, and unanimous vote by the members present.

Top Priorities:

- **Presentations:** KC5NT presented honorary plaques to Norris Martin KB5SLI and Rusty Keyes AD5JY for their service as past Presidents to HOTARC. Thanks guys!

Committee Reports:

- **Trailer Committee:** Roger Miles WB5MBO and Mike Ross N5MVL reported that all is well.
- **Repeater Committee:** Norris Martin KB5SLI reported an \$88.10 expense for connectors, service manual, etc for new repeater installation, \$12 for circuitry to accomplish an automatic reset of power supply, and \$219.63 for assembly to enable remote control shutdown (see [handout](#) for details). A motion to reimburse Norris for these expenses was made by AD5JY, seconded by Bill Haberl KD5TRD, and unanimously approved by the members present.
- **Website Committee:** Justin Martin KC5LQL reported that the [ATV-related pages](#) have been added to our server (e.g., valuable technical information from past issues of *Happenings* newsletters). The 2003 Club calendar has been updated. Expect some down time in the coming weeks for server maintenance.
- **ATV Committee:** W5TAH reported that committee members would be Larry Bush W5NCD, John Chamberlain AC5CV, and John Gafford N5XAK. Any HOTARC member who wants Skycam access codes should contact W5TAH or one of the committee members. New W5ZDN ID chips for the repeater and Skycam have been ordered.
- **Education Committee:** KD5TRD encouraged everyone to consider the online training available through ARRL. AC5CV announced that we'd been asked to deliver training to the Young Marines on May 17. K5YKC encouraged all to sign up with ARRL to receive FCC bulletins.
- **P.R. Committee:** Stan Russell KD5RWX and committee member Scott Shafer KD5MLY, stated their goal is to get word out that we are here to serve the community—not just play with radios.
- **Field Day Committee:** KD5RWX is chair. KB5SLI reported that Hewitt Park has been contacted, but need to followup. This year we'd like to seek donations for sodas, ice, refreshments, etc.

Old Business:

- **Skywarn 2003:** Scheduled for March 8 at Connally High School. Mark your calendars! Contact is Ed Hynan KC5KNI.
- **Christmas Luncheon:** Thanks to KD5TRD for great job with arrangements, centerpieces, etc.
- **2003 Dues:** Dues are due before March 31. Notice renewal form has question about releasing your email address to other ham organizations.
- **AC5HV Memorial:** John Gafford N5XAK reported results of cost research for plaque. KC5NT reported on Director's recommendation to set up a operating position in the Trailer as an AC5HV Memorial, placing the plaque at that station. KD5RWX moved to approve \$150 for bronze plaque, seconded by KI5QT. Following discussion, KD5RWX withdrew it in favor of new motion by W5TAH and second by W5JRM to take up donations for the \$150 bronze plaque. The second motion passed unanimously. The Treasurer will collect member's donations.

New Business:

- **AC5HV Equipment Donations:** KC5NT reported that Jim's family donated to

The Treasurer Reports...**Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer's Report, January 2003**

Beginning Account Balance		\$ 2,575.63
Income		
Dues	\$ 645.00	
AC5HV Mem Donations	30.00	
Interest	<u>0.55</u>	
TOTAL Income	\$ 675.55	
Expenses		
Ex-officer plaques	\$ 40.59	
Repeater hardware	<u>319.73</u>	
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 360.32	
Ending Account Balance		\$ 2,890.86
Outstanding (as of 2-18-03)		
Dues (income): \$75		
Actual cash on hand: \$2965.86		

Submitted by
Ray Read, AD5CK
HOTARC Treasurer

HOTARC an assortment of equipment, most notably a Kenwood TS440S HF transceiver. The Directors recommend using the TS440 at the primary HF operating station, and moving the present TS140 to a new secondary position. The other equipment should be valued, offered to the Members, and the remaining sold at the [TARC HamExpo](#) in Belton, (April 5, 2003).

- **150 MHz antenna:** N5MVL proposed donating HOTARC's 150 MHz, 8-bay commercial antenna to the Speegleville Fire Department, citing the fact that efforts to retune it to ham bands had been unsuccessful. AC5CV made a motion to donate the antenna and some coax cable, W5TAH seconded it, and the members unanimously approved it.
- **New repeater proposals:** KC5NT gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the options discussed by the Directors to upgrade our repeaters—primarily to consider adding a 440-band repeater, in light of the fact that Ron Bowden AA5RT has a 440 repeater for sale. Three proposals for consideration: a) purchase 440 repeater for cost of about \$950; b) upgrade two VHF radios in Trailer to dual-band rigs (UHF/VHF) with cross-band repeat capability for cost of about \$1000; c) purchase 440 repeater and one dual-band rig with cross-band repeat capability for cost of about \$1350. Larry Bush W5NCD announced that he will soon have a UHF repeater installed on his 400 foot tower that will be “open,” and made a motion for HOTARC to spend no money at this time on UHF equipment. AC5CV seconded the motion, and the members unanimously approved the motion.
- **New Member:** The Directors acknowledged a membership application from William Feltenberger KD5UEW. KI5QT moved to accept the application, K5YKC seconded the motion, and the members unanimously approved. Welcome aboard, Bill!

KC5NT heard a motion by KI5QT to adjourn the meeting approximately 8:47 pm.

Stan Russell KD5RWX delivered a presentation with excellent handouts and tips for preparing for emergencies by assembling “Grab & Go Kits” that are ready to...well...grab and go!

Submitted by:

John Chamberlain AC5CV
HOTARC Secretary

Who Are You??

by Ed Hynan, KC5KNI, McLennan County Emergency Coordinator

WHO are you? Who **ARE** you? Who are **YOU?!!**

Imagine this: A major disaster has occurred and communications are disrupted. You pack your equipment and drive to the scene of the incident...only to be turned away for lack of identification.

The ARES ID Card provided to all registered ARES members might be all you need to gain access to the site and begin to help in the recovery efforts. Local emergency personnel have been briefed on the capabilities of ARES and are aware that all registered members have been provided ID Cards. So, know where your ID Card is—keep it with you or in your vehicle. The card is valid with your signature on the reverse. You may be asked to show additional ID to verify your identity. Your ARES ID card documents your amateur status and your willingness to help. As indicated in the letter you received with the card, you may add your photograph and laminate the card.



If you are not a member of McLennan County ARES, you can find an application on the [HOTARC web site](#). Follow the directions for completing the application and returning it to me. The time to join ARES is *before* a major event occurs, not after the fact. Should an event occur, all our efforts would be directed to helping the situation. Processing new requests for ARES membership will have to wait until the situation has returned to normal.

So, join now! And keep that ID card at hand! You never know where you'll be when you're needed!

CQ YLs

by Alma Lang, AB5BA

I thought it would be nice to have a family favorite receipt from time to time. (Maybe you guys can try this for your Field Day breakfast this year!) So YLs: send some to me. Here's our favorite any-time meal—but we use it for breakfast the most.

Breakfast Scramble (This serves two.)

1 carrot
 ¼ cup cabbage--white or red
 1 poblano or bell pepper
 ¼ cup onion (or to your taste)
 Season to your taste (We use crushed basil leaves, oregano, and Mrs. Dash Original Blend)
 2 Eggs (we use Egg Beaters)

Chop all veggies (I use a food chopper) to about match head size. Heat skillet and add no-stick cooking spray. Add the veggies and seasoning. Cook until carrots are tender, but still crispy. Add beaten eggs and stir to coat all veggies. When eggs are set, serve with toast for breakfast, or in taco shells.

ENJOY!

Alma, AB5BA

Late Breaking News

from ARRL Online



ARRISS Contact with Japanese School First Since Columbia Tragedy

Pupils at an elementary school in Japan have been the first youngsters to speak to the astronauts aboard the International Space Station since the shuttle *Columbia* tragedy. The contact took place February 18 between 8N3HES at the Hirano Elementary School and astronaut Don Pettit, KD5MDT, at the controls of NA1SS. The direct 2-meter contact was arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRISS) program, which has been on hold since the shuttle catastrophe. [Read the full story.](#)



New ARRL Section Managers Elected in Four Sections

Roy Rabey, AD5KZ, will become the new North Texas Section Manager this spring after he topped a field of three candidates that included the incumbent. Rabey, who lives in Bedford, outpolled first-term North Texas SM Larry Melby, KA5TXL, and Glenn Warnstaff, K5CPD. Rabey received 576 votes to Melby's 499 and Warnstaff's 303. New SMs also will be taking office in Montana, Wyoming and Oklahoma. Incumbents were re-elected without opposition in five other ARRL sections. Votes cast in all contested races were counted today at ARRL Headquarters. [Read the full story.](#)



Amateur Radio Volunteers Stand Down in Debris Search

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members in San Augustine, Texas, have wrapped up their support of the shuttle *Columbia* debris search-and-recovery effort. South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Bob Ehrhardt, W5ZX, announced that the emergency operations center was shut down February 12 and that there is no further need for Amateur Radio volunteers. Hams in Texas have been supporting communications for the search effort, led by federal agencies, since it began February 1. [Read the full story.](#)

The HOTLINE is the monthly newsletter of the Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club (HOTARC), Inc., a nonprofit corporation, chartered by the State of Texas and principally located in Waco. It is permissible to use any of the original material contained herein, provided proper credit is given to the source.

Edited and Published by John Chamberlain AC5CV, ac5cv@arrl.net

HOTARC 2003 Board of Directors

President: Ed Middlebrook KC5NT, 826-4053, KC5NT@arrl.net
Vice Pres: Stan Russell KD5RWX, 420-4843 KD5RWX@arrl.net
Secretary: John Chamberlain AC5CV, 855-7731, AC5CV@arrl.net
Treasurer: Ray Read AD5CK, 776-4059, AD5CK@arrl.net
Past-Pres.: Rusty Keyes AD5JY, 662-1461, rustedkey@aol.com
Director (2003): Mike Ross N5MVL, 836-1083, N5MVL@juno.com
Director (2004): Marshall Mabry KD5IQ, 772-1037, mabrym@aol.com
Director (2005): Ed Hynan KC5KNI, 666-4873, KC5KNI@arrl.net



2003 Board of Directors

Back: KD5RWX, KC5NT, AD5CK, KD5IQ, AD5JY
Front: KC5KNI, AC5CV, N5MVL

Club Repeaters

145.15 MHz (input at -600 kHz, tone 123 Hz)
146.88 MHz (input at -600 kHz)
146.98 MHz (input at -600 kHz, tone 123 Hz)

VE Testing

10:00 am on the *third Saturday* of each month at Baylor's Rogers Engineering Bldg, Room 107. You must bring:
1) testing fee of **\$12** (cash, please); 2) current license *and photocopy of it*; 3) a photo ID (two for first-time licensees), and
4) photocopy of any relevant CSCE. Contact: Linda Hynan, AC5QQ at 666-4873 or Linda.Hynan@UTSouthwestern.edu.

Meeting Notice

This month's meeting of HOTARC will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday February 27, 2003 in the [Kultgen Automotive Center](#) of the TSTC Waco Campus. Meetings generally last about 90 minutes consisting of fellowship, general Club business, and an interesting program. Visiting hams, family members, and prospective hams are welcomed!

Have you renewed your HOTARC membership?

Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 405
Waco, TX 76703-0405

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Visit our web site at:
www.hotarc.org