



The **HOTLINE**

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

Volume XXXIV, Number 8

August 2009

Meet Our NTX Section Manager

by John Chamberlain AC5CV

Our guest speaker at the August meeting will be **Jay Urish W5GM**, our newly elected North Texas ARRL Section Manager. Jay started out playing with CB radios at age 10, and got his first ham license when he was 15. He currently holds an Extra class license and has a lifetime membership in the ARRL. He's served as secretary of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club (DARC) for one year, and president of the Denton County Amateur Radio Association (DCARA) for two years. During this time he also became a VE for ARRL and W5YI, and the main CVE for Denton County.

Jay says he's active on most bands from 80 m all the way up to 23 cm, enjoying DXing and contesting, as well as the occasional rag chew on HF or a local repeater during the commute to and from work. He is most interested in the technical aspects of amateur radio, owning and operating several repeaters in Flower Mound. When the Denton club needs a tower climber or help installing radio equipment in a car or truck, they often give Jay a call.

Jay is now making the rounds of north Texas clubs, fulfilling his pledge to be open and available to hams in this area, and represent our concerns to ARRL Headquarters. Come on down to the August HOTARC meeting, hear an update from Jay as he makes the drive down to Waco, and let's give him a big HOTARC welcome!



Jay Urish W5GM

President's Corner

by Rodney Baden, K5YKC

Are You Ready?

I guess I'm a little more ready for hurricane season this week. Things have been really hopping! There is a hurricane exercise call MOBEX in which ARES, RACES and MARS are working with the DPS and Governor's Division of Emergency Management next week to prepare for our next hurricane. Let's hope it never gets here (although we sure could use the rain!). I know Texas will be more ready after MOBEX. I thought Bill KE5UEW and I were going to have to go to San Antonio for this next week, but with a little persuasion and good fortune, we won't have to go after all. <whew!>

Be sure to remember that there is a **Burn Ban** in McLennan County and most counties around us. I helped respond to a wildfire this past week, and the heat of the fire and the sun were fierce. I must have drunk a gallon or more of water while we were on scene! This fire was started with a cutting torch and it just "got away" from the welder. In fact, he told me that he had never seen something get going so fast like that in all of his life of welding. He said he learned a real lesson—the hard way.

At our August Club meeting, I hope all of you will come and meet Jay, W5GM, our NTX Section Manager. We will surely get to hear about a lot of things that are happening in Texas—and nationally—with amateur radio.

Please, especially remain alert for details about our September meeting. Plans are almost final for our Club to have the honor of hosting Astronaut Sandra Magnus as our special guest speaker. If so, **we expect to change our regular meeting**



Rodney, K5YKC

date to Tuesday September 15. Be watching your email Inbox and the web site for details and an official announcement. This would be a great occasion to invite friends and family!

Rodney, K5YKC
HOTARC President

For the Record...

HOTARC Meeting of Members July 23, 2009

HOTARC's July Meeting was called to order by Rodney Baden K5YKC Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 8:02 pm at the Kultgen Automotive Center of the TSTC Waco campus.

Present were 12 full members, 3 family members and 2 visitors. Our visitors were Toby Tollison of Waco and Larry Blare KE5PIV of Oglesby.

A motion to approve the Minutes for the June meeting as published in the HOTLINE was recognized from James Jud KA5QKL, with second by John Chamberlain AC5CV. The motion was approved by the members.

A motion to approve the June Treasurer's Report as published in the HOTLINE was recognized from Jerry Tollison KD5JML, with second by Terry Williams KD5KJU. The motion was approved by the members.

Committee Reports:

- **ARES:** Ed Hynan KC5KNI reported that Gary Woodall has moved to Phoenix, AZ.
- **Trailer:** No News
- **Repeater:** No News
- **D-Star:** No News
- **Web page:** AC5CV reported that everything is running well.
- **ATV:** Repeater has to be reset often due to some power issues.
- **Education:** Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW has some General and Technician study guides available for purchase.
- **Public Relations:** No News
- **Special Events:** James Jud KA5QKL reported that he needs a minimum of 5 people to work the Triathlon. The primary repeater for the event is 145.15, the backup is 147.14.

Old Business:

- Since the Trailer Cleanup Day was rained out we need to schedule a new time to complete this project.

Motion to adjourn was recognized from KD5UEW at approximately 8:35 pm.

Tonight's presentation was given by Larry Blare KE5PIV, Waco Operations Supervisor, on how the Waco trunked radio systems work and what re-banding is going to mean for them.

Submitted by:

Jeremy Neal KE5PRG, HOTARC Secretary

The Treasurer Reports...

Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report, July 2009

Beginning Account Balance		\$ 5,591.35
Income		
Flower fund donation	\$ 40.00	
Interest	<u>0.23</u>	
TOTAL Income	\$ 40.23	
Expenses		
Repeater repair	\$ 56.00	
Flowers for N5TD funeral	70.00	
Generator repair	<u>183.75</u>	
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 309.75	
Ending Account Balance		\$ 5,321.83
Outstanding (as of 8-15-2009)		
<i>Debts:</i> Field Day gasoline	\$29.00	
<i>Actual cash on hand:</i>	\$5,292.83	
(includes Flower Fund: \$72.99)		

Submitted by
Norris Martin, KB5SLI
HOTARC Treasurer



Larry Blare KE5PIV

Communication in an Emergency

by Ed Hynan, KC5KNI
McLennan County Emergency Coordinator

Communication during a declared communications emergency is very different from routine day-to-day amateur communications. A communications emergency exists when a critical communications failure puts the public at risk. It could be a storm that knocks down telephone lines or radio towers, a massive increase in the use of a specific communications system that causes it to become overloaded, or the failure of a key component in a system that has widespread consequences. Whatever the reason, amateur radio operators are routinely called in to assist.

Licensed amateur radio operators fit into the equation because we are considered communications experts by the agencies we are asked to support. We have the skills, equipment, and frequencies to create emergency communications networks under emergency conditions. We are licensed and pre-authorized for both national and international communications. We have the ability to rapidly enlarge the communications capacity to meet the growing needs of an emergency situation. The skills that we would need are practiced daily, skills used in everyday amateur communications.

As important as what you are, is what you are not. There are limits to your responsibilities as an emergency communicator, and you need to know what they are. You are not a “first responder”—no need for flashing lights and sirens. You really have no authority. The only decision that you can make is whether to participate or not. You cannot do it all. Helping in a pinch is fine, but you are there to facilitate communications. Finally, you are not in charge. You are there to temporarily fulfill the needs of an agency whose communications system is unable to do its job.

Remember: for us, communicating is Job #1. While you are proud of your skills, equipment, and systems, it is important to remember that your job is to communicate. If requested to deliver a long list of needed supplies to the headquarters, you should be prepared to use any means required—including the fax machine if it is still working. The job is to get the message through, even if it means using smoke signals. Ham radio may not always be the best way to accomplish the communication. Fax, phone, CB radio, an agency’s radio system, or even a messenger on foot may be a faster way to accomplish the task. Remember: communicating is Job #1. Get the message through via amateur radio or any other means.



Special Event Next Month: WWWC!

by John Chamberlain, AC5CV

HOTARC provides radio communications in support of the annual **Waco Wild West Century (WWWC)** bike, this year occurring on **Saturday, September 26, 2009** at Indian Springs Park in downtown Waco, **starting at 8:00 am**. This day-long event accommodates riders with courses of varied lengths: 10 miles, 25 miles, 50 miles, 65 miles, and 100 miles—all of which are supported by rest stops, SAG vehicles, and, of course, radio communications.

This event requires many volunteers in the pace cars and at the many rest stops around the course. Amateur radio operators at the rest stops permit relaying of timely progress information as well as break-downs and injuries, need for supplies, and so forth.

Contact Jim KA5QKL to join the fun and help him fill all the necessary assignments in a timely fashion.



Announcement: Texas Young Ladies Round-Up Net (TYLRUN) is tentatively planning its 54th annual meeting on **October 2-3** in Denton, TX. President Dorothy Jones KA5DWR will be hosting the party. Contact Linda Hynan AC5QQ for more details.

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 2009 Board of Directors

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2009 Board of Directors

Back: KD5SMC, KC5NT, N5MVL, KC5KNI
 Front: K5YKC, KD5KJU, KE5PRG, KB5SLI

Club Repeaters

145.15 MHz (input at -600 kHz, tone 123 Hz)
 146.98 MHz (input at -600 kHz, D-Star)
 442.875 MHz (input at +5.0 MHz, tone 123 Hz)
 ATV: 421.25MHz (Cable 57), input 439.25 MHz (Cable 60)

VE Testing

Next session is scheduled for **Saturday September 19, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Location:** Baylor's [Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Bldg](#) (#70 on the map), Room 109. **Bring:** **1)** testing fee of \$15 (cash only); **2)** a photo ID (two for first-time licensees); and for already licensed amateurs: **3)** current license *and photocopy of it*; and **4)** photocopy of any relevant CSCE. **Contact:** Linda Hynan, AC5QQ at 666-4873 or Linda.Hynan@UTSouthwestern.edu.

Meeting Notice

The next Meeting of HOTARC Members will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday August 27, 2009 in the [Kultgen Automotive Center](#) of the TSTC Waco Campus. Visiting hams, family members, and prospective hams are welcomed!

Communications Volunteers needed:
*Waco Wild West Century
 Bike Ride: September 26*

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Visit our web site at:
hotarc.org