



Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 5

Published Monthly by FSARC

May 20, 1989

Officers

President

Pat Bell , KG5SC

Vice President

Wes Bolin , WV5I

Secretary

Travis Bailey , K5AVH

Treasurer

Bill Miller , WD5HJF

Directors

Wes Bolin , WV5I

Jack Goodson , KA5IQB

Dan Griffin , W5LTQ

Don Lynch , N5DZ

Committees

Activities

Don Lynch , N5DZ 838-4155

Field Day / Flea Market

Dick Curtis , W5NEU 838-6028

Malcolm Bussey , KF5JX 773-9130

Instructional Classes

"Cap" Caplinger , WA5APY 832-1410

Newsletter

Travis Bailey , K5AVH 792-2080

Digital

Hal Clark , KF5YO 772-8742

Skywarn

Al Parsons , KA5LPJ 832-2421

VE Testing

Wes Bolin , WV5I 838-0568

Club meetings are held each Sat. Morning at 9am in the rear of the cafeteria on the 2nd floor of Wadley Hospital. Visitors are welcome. Business meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the same time and location.

Articles for the newsletter must be submitted to the editor no later than the first Saturday of each month.

From The President

Pat Bell KG5SC

One of the most controversial issues to come along in ham radio is the question of a code free license. The ARRL study committee has made it's report in the May issue of QST. All hams should read this article and then write the director of the West Gulf Division, Jim Haynie, WB5JBP, to make known their views. For your input to be timely Jim should receive it before the July board meeting. His address is 4515 Prentice St., Suite 112, Dallas, Texas 75206. The Directors will need your input if they are to be effective and fairly represent the A.R.R.L. members.

Arkansas CD Exercise

As many of you probably remember, Mr. E.G. Ethridge the Emergency co-ordinator for Miller county, attended our March meeting to inform us of an upcoming Civil Defense Exercise to be held in Arkansas and ask for our participation. The Scenario was as follows: It is a typical spring day in Arkansas. The weather is pleasant and dry. Suddenly, throughout Eastern Arkansas, the ground begins to tremble. As the seconds tick, the shaking becomes more violent. Plaster walls begin to crack, ceiling tiles crash down, dishes shatter as they are knocked off of shelves, power lines begin to snap. The roaring gets louder. Bricks fall off of homes and fences are knocked down. Many public housing projects collapse as they cannot withstand the tremors. Liquefaction occurs in many areas, especially along and near river banks. Roads begin to collapse. Bridges are destroyed. Many hospitals suffer extensive damage and begin plans to evacuate. Most school buildings in eastern Arkansas suffer severe damage. Fires and explosions begin as underground pipelines burst. Flooding becomes a serious problem as levees

crumble. Electrical power is off in many areas. Phone services are inoperative.

Communications with other parts of Arkansas and the United States are virtually nonexistent. All permanent fixed communication towers in damaged areas have collapsed causing Amateur Radio to improvise towers, antennas, radios and emergency power to reestablish contact with the outside world.

Few, W5VAA, participated in the exercise and here is his report:

I made the Arkansas CD Exercise from 9 to 12 on 5 April, 1989 and listened through to the conclusion after 12:00 hours. Conditions were not good at the time except for parts of the state, and these were changing from fair to poor all through the exercise. The 75m band began a slow QSB (fade) early after beginning. The NC Station managed to switch back and forth between 75 and 40 until about 11:00 hours, when the 40 m band came in excellent.

Since these exercises are designed ostensibly to find faults and errors to correct for operations in a real emergency, the band conditions were really in such bad order as to magnify any problems encountered in an emergency, and since the operation was not at all smooth sailing, bad band conditions taught each operator how a real emergency would tax the skill of the participants to their limits.

I took the liberty to assume that, since Miller County was so far from the epicenter of the quake, that here would be little or no appreciable damage in the county, and sent in this Exercise Message: Message Nr. 89/14 "This is an Exercise Message." Civil Defense Reports no appreciable Damage in Miller County (69). Few, W5VAA

May we be always ready, but never have to operate for a real emergency.

The Interviewer

Once again I had a chance to talk with your member and find out more about how and where parts could be found for construction of wireless and radio apparatus in the early days. Here is what I found out. A good source of wire from from the local power company. I would go down and ask if they had any used wire I could

have. This usually paid off with about 100 feet or so of wire which could be used for antennas. Insulators could be made from a 3/4 inch square piece of wood about 6 to 8 inches long with an 1/8 inch hole drilled in each end. To protect it from moisture, the wood was then boiled in paraffin or oil. Other parts were harder to find, for instance, B batteries. Since almost every hardware store was now selling radios, this was a good place to start. Most of these stores also had a radio repair shop, and if you could make friends with the repairman, he could be a real help in obtaining batteries from the broadcast radios which were being discarded as weak or bad. We learned to take these batteries and put them in the car in parallel with the car battery so that they would be charged when we needed them. I was fortunate enough to be able to buy a motor generator to use as a plate supply. It was a 110v motor that had two 350 volt DC generators, one mounted on each end of the AC motor. It had been used to furnish the DC power for a low power broadcast station in the local area, and was very well used. I was now ready for high power. No more little one tube receivers and transmitters for me. By now, AC filament tubes were coming into use, so it was back to the power company to try to find some burned out pole transformers that could be disassembled to obtain the wire needed to wind a filament transformer to power these tubes. With experience, we got where we could also wind 500 and 750 volt transformers. By now the old DC powered broadcast radios were being traded in for the new AC line powered models. So back to the hardware store to try to talk the radio repairman out of some of these old radios which would yield many valuable parts such as variable condensers, resistors, tubes, speakers, transformers, bolts, nuts, and wire. All these parts could be used or modified to build transmitters and receivers. Some of us had three stage rigs and no two variable condensers would be alike.

These were the days of real homebuilt rigs built from parts that could be found for almost nothing if you knew where to look. Quite a contrast with today's slick, hi tech rigs, but they worked and got us on the air and we were proud of them because we had built them ourselves.

Scout-O-Rama

The annual Boy Scout Scout-O-Rama was held this year at the fairgrounds on Loop 245. FSARC had a booth set up for this event with rigs in operation on several bands including 2m FM, VHF Packet, HF Packet, and HF SSB. Six hams from Texarkana and New Boston were present to help put up antennas, man the rigs and answer questions during the event. Several others came by to visit during the day. Also available at the booth were handouts from the ARRL and FSARC as well as other items of interest such as a code practice oscillator, amateur related books and magazines, QSL cards etc. Hopefully many of the scouts and their leaders went away with a favorable impression of amateur radio. A special thanks to Wimpy, K5SGYR for heading up this event and bringing the tables and chairs, as well as printing up the handouts for the club and bringing out several pieces of equipment. Also thanks to Hal, KF5YO, who brought his packet station and Brent, N5LGC and Ashley, N5LON who brought rigs and antennas from New Boston.

Business Meeting

FSARC held its regular Business Meeting Saturday May 13 in the cafeteria at Wadley Hospital. Here are the highlights of that meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurers report was given and showed a balance in the bank at the end of April at \$1493.47. Committee reports were as follows: Skywarn-A1 reported 1 Skywarn incident since the last report and said participation was good. VE Testing- Wes said that the next test session would be held on June 17 and that we now have enough VE's to have code testing in one room and written testing in another. Field Day- Wes reported for Dick, who was unable to attend, that Dick will contact some of the members to help with final field day plans. Bill said he and Carl would cook hamburgers again this year. He also said Carl has a map that can be used during field day to pin point contacts made. Packet- Hal reported a good Packet meeting last month and said that George presented an informative session on Amtor. He invited everyone interested in any of the digital modes to join the group on the third

Thursday of each month. He also reported that Wes had loaned the club a new Midland 35 watt commercial radio for use on the digipeater. It has been used on a trial basis for about three weeks and has made a marked improvement in the performance of the TXK digipeater. He recommended that the club purchase this radio plus a new 12v power supply to replace the crystal controlled rig which is now being used on the digipeater and that the crystal controlled rig be moved to the Bi State Justice building for use in Skywarn. He said the cost of the new rig and power supply would be \$358.30 and that this was a special one time deal that Wes was offering the club. The club approved this expenditure. Also approved by the club was a motion to move the net time to 9pm on Tuesdays during the summer and to buy the ARRL sponsored Club Liability Insurance. Bill announced that Jack Stansberry, K5IDH was recently killed in an auto accident in Houston. Donations were taken so that flowers could be sent to the family. Wes ask for a show of hands of those who were for the no code license proposal as stated in the current issue of QST. 6 were for and 16 were against. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Calender

FSARC 2m Net (146.62) Each Tuesday 9pm
(Swap net follows)

Lunch Bunch (Lunch & Social) Each
Wednesday 12 noon Mr. Gatti's Pizza

Digital Meeting 3rd Thursday of each Month
7pm Wadley Hosp. Cafeteria

VE Testing

June 13 New Boston High School Shop 7pm

June 17 Wadley Hospital Cafeteria 9am

Ham-Com June 2nd-4th Arlington Conv.
Center, Arlington, Tx.

Sidewalk Sale 1st Saturday each month
Ross & Central, Dallas

Field Day June 24th-25th Lake Wright Patman
Skywarn Personnel

May Mike, KG5RV---Pat, KG5SC

June Wes, WY5I ---Hal, KF5YO

ARRL Membership Remember to Join or
Renew through FSARC. Send your application or
renewal form to Bill Miller, W5HJF along with
your check made payable to Four States
Amateur Radio Club.