

Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 11

Published Monthly by FSARC

November 18, 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, NSDZ

Committees

Activities

Don Lynch, NSDZ 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.

Club Members Handle 21 Messages During California Earthquake

Vimpy, KG5XL

On October 17, California experienced the worst earthquake in many years. Always in such a disaster there is some breakdown in communications.

On the afternoon of the 18th, Brenda Herman, with the American Red Cross, contacted Pat, KG5SC, with a request for help by local amateur radio operators in passing traffic from area residents trying to contact relatives in the bay area. Although the phone system in San Francisco was not severely damaged, communications in that area were very difficult and many local people, unable to contact loved ones in the bay area, turned to the Red Cross for help.

Upon receiving this request for assistance, Pat began contacting club members for help. After receiving a call, I contacted Ms. Herman and picked up the messages she had. About 2:30pm Ms. Herman called again and asked if KSLA, Channel 12, could make some tape of us making contacts. Needless to say this took us all by surprise. Seeing the possibility for club recognition, I asked Travis, K5AVH and Wes, WV5I for help. About 7pm the same night, KSLA showed up and shot their footage as we passed some messages through Carl, KG5RX. Hal, KF5YO also demonstrated how packet radio could be used to pass emergency traffic.

Although it was never aired, we can take satisfaction that the Red Cross and the people we served were thankful we were there. Cap-KG5ZJ, Bob-WA5KY0, Hal-KF5YO, Dave-NSMTO, and I worked to get traffic into the affected areas. There were a number of other Hams that quietly did what they could to help, asking for no recognition. The Red Cross had traffic for us to send out as late as October 20th. I know of 21 messages that were handled. Wednesday night after the quake, Cap made contact with a ham in the bay area. For his first message Cap was given Message number 1627. This one operator had handled over 1600 messages within the first 24 hours after the quake! This illustrates the magnitude of the operation. We can take pride in the fact that we were able to serve our fellow man in time of need, but after all, isn't that what we are all about?

From The President

Pat, KG5SC

I was drawing a blank for my column this month when one of the ham suppliers furnished me a topic. That topic put very simply is "How not to order ham gear."

I recently ordered an antenna from a well known company that has been in the ham business for a long time. I made the mistake of giving them my Visa number to pay for the antenna. The second mistake I made was in believing them as to a shipment date. To put my problems very briefly, they took twice as long to ship as first stated and they told many lies trying to cover up their shortcomings.

I am offering the following ordering suggestions to maybe save some fellow ham a lot of headaches. That friendly bit of advice that I offer you in placing orders is:

1. Have the equipment shipped by UPS,
2. Have the equipment shipped C.O.D., and
3. Tell them that unless they ship on the date promised then you will not accept the order.

What made this so bad was that I had to listen to Travis, Wes and Don talk about busting into the pileups during the CQ DX contest while I could only listen to the exotic calls. THE NAME OF THE ANTENNA COMPANY IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Solar Activity to Peak Later This Year

A story in the Boulder, Co. Daily Camera with Joseph Hirman, of NOAA in Boulder, has some comments by the researcher that are of interest to those of us who still rely on the ionosphere for our amateur communications. Hirman's research at Boulder's Space Environment Service Center indicates that this approaching sunspot cycle peak should be near a maximum from late 1989 into 1992.

He is quoted as saying that his present cycle is bigger and rising faster than any previous one except for the biggie in the late 1950's. He expects solar storms of a major size to occur perhaps twice yearly for the next year or two. This isn't very good news for the higher frequencies. Earlier this year solar activity produced a magnetic storm of such proportion

that much of northeast Canada was blacked out due to the circuit breakers in long distance lines tripping in response to voltage transients inducted by this storm. I need not remind anyone that it takes quite a bit of induced power to drive a 345 KV power line into a fault condition.

So, it appears that hams can look forward to some real glory days on twenty through six meters for the next couple of years in between the days of flare activity.

Digital Talk

Hal, KF5YO

I recently made a list of Hams in the area with TNC's and came up with a whopping number of 23. Many of those have two or more so with that everyone can see that the digital mode of Ham Radio is really growing in the area. We have come a long way in the last 2 years when there were only four in the area. Most of the credit for this growth goes to the individuals who have spent the time with others getting them familiar with digital communications and helping them get on the air. Whether an individual is interested in Packet, Amtor, Baudot, CW, or Fax, there is someone in the area that will be more than happy to get that person started. If anyone is interested in a demonstration please let me know and one will be set up.

AI (WSENA) is looking for individuals that would be willing to work with the Army Mars. There is a big need for both Packet and Amtor operators. AI will have more information for us at the next Digital Meeting.

Net Control

Dave, N5MTD

Hello. It's that time of year again. Time change for the FSARC net. We went to the 8 PM time slot on 11-7-89. Usually we have about 12 - 15 check in on the NET, and this being the first time for the 8 PM NET, I figured about 5 or 6 folks to check in. I was wrong as usual. 20 total checked in. Seems like this new time will work out better for club members and visitors to the Texarkana area to check in. And it was a good informative NET.

KASEOU, Hubert, said that it was probably

going to rain overnight. And sure enough at 12:30am, the bottom fell out. Along with some hail that I figure must have been marble size because it sounded like it was coming through the roof. Perhaps Hubert should consider becoming a meteorologist.

I do appreciate all the "check ins" we have and passing of information about club activities. That makes for a good NET and more folks are likely to tune in to see what is happening. Hear you on the NET

November Business Meeting

The FSARC held it's regular business meeting on Saturday November 11th at Wadley Hospital Cafeteria.

Pat, KG5SC, called the meeting to order at 9am and the minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurers report showed a balance of \$559.16 at the end of October. It was reported that Gene Lamport and Cliff Robertson were both in St Michael hospital. It was also announced that Paul, KB5IZB had recently been elected President of the New Boston Club

Travis, K5AVH, told the club that he wanted to mail the December newsletter to all licensed amateurs in the Texarkana area in an effort to bring in new members and ask for approval from the club for the money necessary for additional printing and postage for December. This was approved.

Cap, KG5ZJ, introduced members of the novice class who were in attendance. Dave said he had 20 checkins on the last Tuesday night net. Pat announced that the Pot luck dinner scheduled for November 19 would be changed to an eat out since there had been little interest shown in the pot luck supper. Also the date would be changed to November 17 which would be a Saturday night.

Don and Wes were thanked for the recent work which they did on the repeater, and Pat announced that there would be a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday December 7 at 6:30 pm in the Wadley cafeteria and invited anyone interested to attend. Plans will be made at that meeting for 1990.

Wes ask the club for approval to purchase a lightening protector for the GasFet preamp on the .62 repeater if it looked like it was needed.

The club approved this purchase.

Pat announced that the Wednesday noon lunch would be moved to Simple Simons, across for Collom & Carney clinic on Texas Blvd. beginning Wednesday November 15th. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Congratulations!

To the following newly elected officers of the New Boston Amateur Radio Club:

Paul Notta, KB5IZB - President

Jim Miller, KB5KBA - Vice Pres.

Ashley May, KG5VN - Sec-Treas.

and to the Following who earned license or upgraded during the November 11 VE Test Session.

Donald G. Shirley- General

Tim J. Sullivan - Technician

Billy Mars- Technician & Gen Written

Freeman Nickerson - Advanced

Stephen G. Brownlee- General Written

James A.W. Conradt- Advanced, Extra Written

Danny Hebert- General

David J. Will- Extra Code

David J. Twellman- Technician, Gen Written

The following members are in St. Micheals Hospital.

Gene Lamport, W5EGY

Clif Robertson, K5O2M

We wish you both a speedy recovery and hope to see you both back on Saturday mornings real soon.



HEY, YOU FIXED MY SIDEBAND RIG --- SOUNDS GREAT!

Four States Amateur Radio Club

Calendar

**FSARC 2m Net (146.62)
Lunch**

Each Tuesday 8pm (Swap Net Follows)
Each Wednesday 12 noon Simple Simons (across from
Collom & Carney Clinic)

**Digital Meeting
Troubleshooting Workshop
Board Planning Meeting
V.E. Testing**

3rd Thursday of each Month 7pm Wadley Hospital Cafeteria
November 18 and 25 9am Wadley Hospital Cafeteria
December 7th 6:30pm Wadley Hospital Cafeteria
Saturday December 16 9am Wadley Hospital Cafeteria

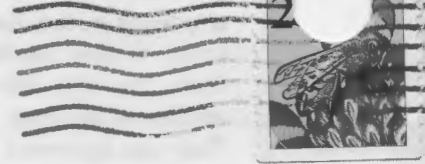
Skywarn

November
December

Pat-KG5SC, Mike-KG5RV
Hal, KF5YO, Wes, WV5I

******* Note new Wednesday noon meeting place*****
Simple Simons on Texas Blvd**

Four States Amateur Radio Club
18 Highland Hills
Texarkana, Ar. 75502



First Class Mail

