

TAARC COMMUNICATOR

Tarleton Area Amateur Radio Club

Stephenville, TX 76401

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January 2009

A New Year for TAARC

by Bill Allen, WA5PB
TAARC President

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of TAARC again for the year 2008. It has been an exceptional year with the accomplishments of our club and its individuals making me very proud to be an Amateur Radio operator.

For those who are only just becoming familiar with TAARC, we are a club that tries to include a variety of aspects of our great hobby. This year we provided communications services for four area bike races, provided storm spotting communications and even orchestrated a very successful Simulated Emergency Test. Beyond that, the VE team tested many new hams. As it can be easily seen, much emphasis is on service.

As members of TAARC, we are also members of a much greater organization – the Amateur Radio Service. To me, the name says it all. This service is established in the United States in order to increase the pool of technical experts in technologies such as electronics and radio, to provide emergency communications, and to promote international goodwill. One of the best ways to understand what we are about is to look at the name in reverse. The key to the name and our purpose is in the last word of the name – Service. Our first and foremost mandate is that of service to our community and our nation. We are there for those around us. So much so, the



ARRL has coined a great slogan “When All Else Fails...Amateur Radio”, as many have well learned during the worst of disasters. We get the message through when nothing else can.

This brings us to the next to the last word in the name – Radio. We have an awesome opportunity to provide communications via radio technologies. This can range the whole gamut from older technologies such as Morse Code and various analog voice methods like

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Tarleton Area Amateur Radio Club

Stephenville, TX 76401

taarc@arrl.net

President: Bill Allen, WA5PB

Vice President: Gene Morrison, K5IYY

Sec'y/Treasurer: Larry D. Barr, K5WLF

Website: <http://taarc.rebelwolf.com/>

K5IYY Repeater: 147.360 + 110.9

Meetings

1st Tuesday each month

1900 Local

Room 103

TSU Science Building

NW Corner Lillian & Vanderbilt

Parking in lot on N side

Talk-in on K5IYY Repeater

VE Testing after each meeting -- Walk-ins Welcome

Net Schedule**TAARC Net**

Each Tuesday except 1st Tuesday

2200 Local on K5IYY Repeater

ARES Net

1st & 3rd Mondays

2130 Local on KC5QHO Repeater - Comanche

146.680 - 110.9



Special thanks to Gene, K5IYY, for keeping the repeater up and all the work and expense involved in that endeavor, and for the great job that you do as liaison officer with our served agencies. And, especially, just for being here and being a part of the local ham community.

Super Special Thanks to Pat, KE5KHV -- for letting Gene come out and play!!

A New Year for TAARC . . . Cont.

AM, SSB and FM to television to the latest cutting edge digital technologies such as packet, PSK, Echolink, 802.11 wireless networks and D-Star. Amateur Radio operators have even designed earth orbiting satellites and bounced communication signals off of the moon! Radio, in a variety of modes and methods, is our means to the service we provide.

Finally, we come to the first word in our name – Amateur. Sometimes this word is misunderstood because it can be used in various ways. By amateur, we mean that we do this without seeking compensation for our service. We do not do it for money or any other payment in exchange. It is a service we provide free of charge. This is a fact deeply impressed upon all amateurs radio operators as they study to take tests to achieve various levels of proficiency and license in our service. Time after time, this fact is repeated and stressed. In the process, it is also learned that amateur does not mean either without skill or poorly skilled. When it comes to the technologies and communications involved, we are very highly skilled. We take pride in providing top notch service to those around using the best of our skills and technologies.

Now, understanding that we are not compensated in any material way for our service, just what do we get in return? To me, and hopefully to you too, the most fun hobby in the whole world! We receive hours, even lifetimes, of fun and friendships with other hams; and not only in our local communities, but worldwide if we choose. We also get to play with and even develop leading edge technologies. Amateur Radio has been called the greatest service hobby in the world, and I believe it is. It is unique, it is fun, and I invite you to take full advantage of it in this new year of 2009. I encourage each and everyone of you to discover the opportunities for both service and fun that this fantastic hobby offers!

73,
Bill, WA5PB

Current Burn Ban Map URL

<http://tfsfrp.tamu.edu/wildfires/decban.png>

15 Nov SET

by Larry, K5WLF; Photos by Robert, KE5MOQ & Pat, KE5KHV

On 15 November 2008, the Tarleton Area Amateur Radio Club embarked on its most ambitious mission to date -- a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) based on the scenario of an EF5 tornado devastating portions of Stephenville and resulting in multiple casualties, the loss of grid power, vehicle crashes, gas leaks and post-tornado flooding. TAARC was joined in this effort by hams who cared enough to make the trip from three other counties in District 3. The SET kicked off with breakfast at Peacocks and proceeded to the site of the command trailer at JayCee Park. After the briefing and handout of assignment packets the participants left for their designated locations and the NCS team entered the warmth of the command trailer provided by Steve, K5SRH. Although a simulated repeater failure was planned in the event, the repeater failed on its own and afforded Gene, K5IY, the chance for a couple of unscheduled trips to the repeater site. The response of the participants to the scenario was a complete success and all those involved can be justifiably proud of their skill and dedication to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Participating hams were: Gene, K5IY; Bill, WA5PB; Larry, K5WLF; Steve, K5SRH; David, K5DDL; Max, K5OVW; Cliff, KC5KWX; Robert, KE5MOQ; Pat, KE5KHV; Bruce, KE5VYV; Kelly, KE5REV; Vernon, KE5RES; Ron, KE5REW; Dan, KB5JI; Gary, KE5JFF; Joe, KD5NRH and Jill, KE5KHY. Thanks to all of you.



The Briefing -- 36°F



The Stars and Stripes waving proudly from the tower on our EmComm trailer



Steve -- K5SRH -- NCS



Larry -- K5WLF -- NCS

More Pics on Page 4...

15 November SET Pics . . . Continued



Thanks again to all of the hams who worked on this SET. Your efforts and dedication are much appreciated. It is exercises like this that keep us prepared and help us hone our skills for a real emergency.