



THE GROUNDWIRE

Feed The Geek

ISSUE 2008—03

Greetings Friends,

What an honor it is to write to you via the *Ground Wire* for the first time as President of such a great Amateur Radio organization as the Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio Club. It is a privilege to serve among some of the best people in the North Texas Area. I hope that I can fulfill your faith in me to serve as “Grand Poo Baa” for the 2008 year. I have a class act to follow. John KB5NJD has lovingly administered our needs and carried us through a year of innovation 2007. Thank you John. I hope I can serve the Club presidency half as well as you. You have laid the ground work, now it is up to us to pick up and move our great Club forward.

About our Friend Danny W5WB

SWDCARC has recently suffered a loss of one of our own. Danny Cromaz W5WB was a key member / leader of us. My words fail me as I try to encompass what Danny meant to the club and what he meant to us each as a loyal friend. Danny was my councilor when I was chair of the Field Day for 2006 and 2007. And what a friend and counselor he was. Being around Danny meant that one wasn't too far away from a joke, or a laugh, or kind word of admonition. It didn't take long to figure out that when Danny was a bit upset with you, or maybe a position you took, he would only speak louder and smile / laugh stronger (that was the only clue). We knew him as an active participant in club activities, chairman of some, and a resource of knowledge when we needed help. No matter whether you were a newbie or an old hat on the repeater, W5WB was there to greet you and speak with you as long as he could. As a club leader, Danny was one of the most unassuming characters I knew. No trumpet fanfare, no crashing symbols, things just happened when Danny was around.

Danny isn't with us now. His great legacy has left the SWDCARC wanting. I really don't think many of us knew how much Danny did for the club. That was Danny. Like I said, no trumpets, no crashing symbols. In the midst of our grief at Danny's passing we found out the depth of his volunteer ship and dedication of time to the club. He left a big hole behind. It will take time to heal, missing Danny being around and to fill the void left in our club.



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**Membership
Dues Are Due**



Danny left us a legacy of leadership and volunteer ship. He has set us an example. To honor his name and his work for the club, it is up to us to use his example, pick up the pieces and move the club forward from here.

What's on tap for 2008

Next year's theme is "FEED the GEEK!" Have you ever thought why you became an Amateur Radio Operator? I know my wife Nance has wondered about me. It is that little thread of geek that runs through all of us. We like things that buzz and zap, twinkly lights, and every now and then, things that go up in a puff of smoke. It is that geek inside of us that thrills when we holler and that holler is heard around the world. It is that geek in all of us that waits until there is a major thunderstorm brewing outside before we would raise that 50 foot antenna into the heavens. Geekdom is best served as a Radio Amateur. The geek in us causes us to get our equipment running and ready for that special time when our neighbors need help in times of disaster. It's the geek in us that thrills us when it was our rig, our communication expertise, that saved lives and or made someone's bad day better. It's the geek in us that causes our heart to glow when a child, whose body is ravaged by cancer, is able to discover a friend in a foreign land just by using a station we put together.

We are a part of the Amateur Radio Fraternity. We are individuals with our very own unique name (our call sign) working together as a whole, serving our neighbors, communities, and country. Stand up and be counted! Be proud! You're a geek!

A motley group of dedicated "geeks" has stepped forward to serve as this year's SWDCARC's board members and Club officers.

President: Richard Baker N5KXA

Director: Bernie McPartland KC5MQC

Vice President: Mike Harang K5MMH

Director: Paul Dryer KD5IVP

Secretary: Rachael Holt K5KMS

Director: Don Hickey KD5SCZ

Treasurer: Jerry Keltner KB6OJE

What a team! (What a bunch of geeks)

More Leadership

This isn't all that is listed as this year's leadership for SWDCARC! Our organization has grown and reached a turning point where there is a need for expanded club activities and leadership in those activities. Each of the following has responded to the tap on the shoulder to accept chairmanship of new activity group committees and departments. Each chairperson is responsible for the organization of their committee and recruiting members to work within it. Check this list out!

Contest Committee co-chairs: David Lusk N5UV, and John Langridge KB5NJD.

This committee will organize our Club contest efforts including but not exclusive to Oklahoma QSO Party, Texas QSO Party, and Field Day Weekend. There are a lot more radio contests on the agenda for the

Club. These guys will be focusing our plans to master each one. Can you say “SWDCARC sponsored QSO Party?” It’s on the table to make plans this year for next year (2009)! It’ll put SWDCARC on the map!

Fox Hunt Committee: Rick Ellis KJ5UY will chair and mentor next year’s fox hunts. We all have a lot to learn and to practice fox hunting. Rick’s committee will teach and guide us. These skills will prepare us for RF search and rescue. We might get into building a few new fox controllers and directional radio receivers. Also, plans are being put together for SWDCARC to sponsor a North Texas Balloon launch (the ultimate in Fox Hunting). This is another major event that will put SWDCARC before the Radio Amateur community. Much planning is to be involved with an event like this, so we probably will plan, learn, organize, this year for an event next year (2009)!

Safety Committee: Bob Best KE4JSQ has agreed to chair this very important committee. Bob’s committee will oversee all club events to see they are operated and run in a safe manner. Safety has become a forefront activity that affects our families, clubs, and neighbors in our communities. Bob and committee will be a mentor to bring health and safety tips and education to our meetings and events. We can use the training and discussion in SWDCARC. Thanks Bob.

WEB Master Committee co-chairs: Bill Ellis N5TXN, Floyd Rodgers KC5QBC and Russ Thompson KX5G.

These supreme geeks of the World Wide Web have agreed to form a committee to master our world presence at www.swdcarc.org. This is a very important world output of SWDCARC’s activities. When we do host a radio contest, the web page will be the focus of participants. When the world wants to check out this SWDCARC amateur radio club they will go to the web page to find us. Net geeks, these are the guys to know! (They need all the help they can get, really, they really need the help!).

NET Committee: Todd Huovinen KB5TMD: Todd will chair the committee to host our Club’s Monday VHF Net gatherings. Todd’s committee selects the Net Control for the evening and manages the content of the Net. This year’s format features plans to bring Amateur Radio news wire broadcasts to the Net and to foster other Nets throughout the weeks and Months that include other bands and modes. It’s a big job and Todd has agreed to put together a committee to master it. Woo Hoo! Way to go Todd!

WAN Committee: Chuck Poindexter KE5HGQ: Wide Area Network Committee Chair. Chuck’s committee will help us put together the WAN networks for our contests and manage our computer logging systems. Naturally this committee will be working hand-in-hand with the Contest Committee to take a load off David’s and John’s dance cards in this expertise. Thanks Chuck, glad you’re there.

Repeater Committee co chair: Johnny Robertson KJ5LB Floyd Rodgers KC5QBC This dynamic duo will serve together to maintain our Clear Channel Voice of the Dallas / Ft. Worth metropolis. 147.060 is the big gun repeater of the DFW area. Johnny and Floyd will keep it going with their finger-poking and fine tuning. We appreciate their help.



GROUND WIRE chairman: Bill Ellis N5TXN Bill puts this whole news letter thing together. Notice his hair is thinning? That's what happens when presidents don't get their articles in by publishing time. We have a world class club news paper. Thanks to Bill. He always needs articles. Anyone for a Pulitzer Prize? Bill and us-ins can use them. Your story may be the next great read!

Club Meetings

Club Meetings will have a bit more changes from the usual format. Hope all will find the new format welcome, fun and informative.

Mike Harang and I will share equally in Presidential duties. I'd like to call myself a member of the Presidency of the SWDCARC (instead of President), Mike being the other member. Expect Mike to share equally in activities expected of the President of the Club. He is to get all the irate email and nasty phone calls.

Several volunteers have stepped forward to share their expertise and ELMER us all. They will present their tips and ideas in the form of small vignettes. These are very small infomercials so-to-speak of prescribed subject matter. So expect to be hearing something interesting each meeting.

Here is a list of some of the neat things we'll see at each meeting:

- Paul Dryer: CW training (how about the joke of the day.... In CW?)
- John Langridge: HF Propagation (what's up and how to read the numbers)
- David Lusk, John Langridge: Contest News. Contesting techniques
- Bob Best: Safety Tip of the Day
- Rick Ellis: Fox Hunting tips, news and events
- Rachael Holt: Railroads, Radio Frequencies to scan, Rail News
- Johnny Robertson: Generator care and Maintenance, Tower Maintenance
- Jerry Keltner: Keeper de By Laws, Parking lot master
- John Langridge: HF Antennas, HF operating, HF operating techniques
- Todd Huovinen: Short Wave listening news geeky stuff about neat SW radios
- David Lusk: Digital HF (this is an ever expanding field in the Amateur community)
- Floyd Rodgers: VHF / UHF news tips and techniques
- Mike Harang: Phased Verticals: project report and hints and kinks.

Sum It All Up

As you can see from the lists above, there is a lot on the table for our club and club meetings. That is why the expanded leadership and committees. There are many ongoing club activities not yet mentioned.

There yet other committees that need to be setup and actuated. They will be announced as they happen.

Be sure to lay a little thank you on our chairpersons and Elmers. They work real cheap and your appreciation is all they get. I do feed them peanuts now and then.

No organization can operate without the enthusiasm and efforts brought to it by its' volunteers. That is the core of this organization. Our members and volunteers, real people, doing great things stepping forward to do (often hard) tasks, being leaders, caretakers, and mentors to the rest of us. I am awed and humbled by the work done by so many of our membership. Each and every member of this club has contributed to making SWDCARC the best Amateur Radio Club in this community. It's the geeky thing to do.

Next year is to be a year of growth, learning, and FUN! Remember ... FEED THE GEEK!

73's

N5KXA

GROUNDWIRE RULES REVIEW

All ... it has been a while since the rules of the GROUNDWIRE have been addressed, so I thought I would take this opportunity to list them again.

- **All articles are due no later than the 25th of the month.** Example; the April 2008 GROUNDWIRE articles are due March 25th.
- If your item is time sensitive, please indicate such when you submit your article or announcement.
- All articles **MUST** be submitted in an OFFICE 2003 compatible format as an attachment to an e-mail sent to weejr56@gmail.com. Articles typed directly into e-mail as message text will be declined. Always send articles as an attachment.
- Please be aware that your keyboard has a TAB key. If your articles require columns or data to align in a special format, use the TAB key, NOT the SPACE BAR.
- I **DO NOT** read every article word for word while creating the newsletter. I mainly look for red and green underlines (editing marks in WORD). Please read your article for grammar and syntax **BEFORE** submitting.
- Please send pictures as **.jpg** files.
- I can accept VISIO and AUTOCAD files for schematics.
- I **CANNOT** use **.pdf** files for anything.

BILL/N5TXN

Financial Report for February, 2008



February-08

General Fund	<u>Checking:</u>	Petty Cash:
Beginning Balance 2/1/08	\$ 731.23	
INCOME/EXPENSE		
Dues Income - 2008	\$ 196.00	
Transfer From Matl. Property	\$ -	
Transfer Petty Cash income		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 196.00	\$ -
EXPENSES		
Flowers W5WB Funeral Ck 549	(\$77.94)	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (77.94)	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$ 118.06	\$ -
Ending Balance 2/29/2008	\$ 849.29	\$ -
Special Events Fund		
Beginning Balance 2/1/08	\$ 113.04	
INCOME/EXPENSE		
Trans from General Fund	\$ -	
SWDCARC Shirt pymts	\$ 200.00	
Mtg. food income Xmas & Donation		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 313.04	
EXPENSES		
Meeting food exps.		
Xmas mtg decorations		
Trans to Material Property Fund	\$ -	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ -	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE		
Ending Balance as of 2/29/08	\$ 313.04	
Material Property Fund		
Beginning Balance 2/1/08	\$ 2,114.52	
INCOME/EXPENSE		
Dues Income - 2008	\$ 49.00	
Transfer from General Fund		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 49.00	
EXPENSES		
Telephone CK 548	\$ (35.49)	
Transfer to General Fund	\$ -	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (35.49)	
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	\$ 13.51	
Ending Balance as of 2/29/08	\$ 2,128.03	

Special Events Schedule

March 8th & 9th

OK QSO Party

Participation can be via mobile or fixed station.

See Dave N5UV for details

March 20th, 21st, & 22nd

Jerusalem Market Place

6:30PM until about 9:00PM

Parking Lot Duty

Windsor Park Baptist Church

See Jerry KB6OJE for details and sign up.

May 10th

Head For The Hills Bike Rally

7:00AM until about 3:00PM

Route is from Cedar Hill High School through Mansfield and back. Rest stop, SAG Wagon, Mechanic's Truck and Net Control stations will need to be manned. We will need about 20 operators with hand-helds and mobile radios.

See Johnny KJ5LB for details and sign up.

Minutes of the Board Meeting: February 5, 2008



President Chuck Poindexter (KE5HGQ) called the February SWDCARC Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Board members in attendance were Chuck Poindexter (KE5HGQ) Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE), Bill Ellis (N5TXN) and Richard Baker (N5KXA). Guests in attendance were Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC), Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB).

The **financial report** was approved as reported in the January newsletter. Jerry reported that the club broke even after all bills were paid for the December Christmas Dinner and HOTY presentation. The **minutes** of the last Board meeting were approved as reported in the January newsletter.

Committee Reports

Repeaters: The phone line is still not connected to the controller. The problem is in the T1 interface between the controller and the telephone demarcation point. There are ongoing efforts to determine the cause.

Membership: No new applications for membership were received to be voted on for approval this month.

Web Site: Floyd KC5QBC and Johnny KJ5LB will visit with Drena KK5YC to find out the passwords and update URL

VE Testing: Test 17 on January 26, 2008. Sixteen of those taking the test passed

Medical Reserve Corp program: There is a possibility of participation in a county wide drill in the near future. Members will be informed via email. Inventory will also be taken of all communications gear soon.

Old Business

The Mormon Church radio group used the repeater on February 3, 2008 for the first time. They will be holding monthly nets.

New Business

Johnny KJ5LB will take over the coordination for the Head For The Hill Bike Rally.

Plans for the OK QSO party are in the works.

Presentation for General Membership Meeting: Craig Green (KV5E) will present an explanation of demo of ICOM's D-Star.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Ellis (N5TXN), Club Secretary.

2008 Board Members

President

Richard Baker (N5KXA)

Vice-President

Mike Harang (K5MNH)

Treasurer

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Secretary

Rachel Holt (KE5KMS)

Directors

Bernie McPartland
(KC5MQC)

Paul Dryer (KD5IVP)

Don Hickey (KD5SCZ)

Minutes of the General Meeting: February 19, 2008



The meeting was called to order by President John Langride KB5NJD at 6:30pm. Minutes & Treasurer's report were approved as presented in the *Groundwire*. Guest present were Craig Green (KV5E). Craig presented an explanation of demo of ICOM's D-Star.

Committee Reports

Repeater: No report

Website: We are still waiting on the user-id and password information from Drena KK5YC. Floyd KC5QBC is working with Drena KK5YC on gathering up all the information. Floyd KC5QBC, Russ KX5G and Bill N5TXN will be working on updating the web-site on a go forward basis.

Membership: No report.

Net: No report

VE: No report

MRC: Paul KD5IVP reported that there would be an inventory meeting on Saturday February 23, 20068 at 9AM. There will also be a POD "up & down" drill.

Old Business

Jerusalem Market Place: The church will need our help again this year with this event. The even will be held March 20th thru 22nd at Windsor Park. Participates need to be at the church with hand-held ready by 6:30PM. Last year was COLD, so pay particular attention to the weather report. Jerry KB6OJE is the RAMROD on this event.

Bike Rally: Johnny KJ5LB agreed to attend the Bike Rally meetings. We will need about 20 people. Even is May 8th. Johnny KJ5LB is the event RAMROD.

Club Shirts: Drena KK5YC is carrying on Danny's W5WB club shirt project. She is taking orders this month and next month. Shirts are \$25.00/each.

New Business

NCS Training: Todd KB5TMD will be conducting NCS control operator training in the new future.

Officers Election: A motion was made by Russ KX5G and seconded by Bernie KC5MQC to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Motion passed.

Program: Craig Green KV5E presented ICOM's D-STAR technology and how it can be used for emergency communications.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20pm

Respectively submitted,
BILL ELLIS

MARCH



OK QSO Party Warp-Up & 2008 overview

NCS Schedule

2008

March

03-KB5TMD
10-KC5MQC
17-KX5G
24-KB5TMD
31-KJ5UY

April

07-KB5TMD
14-KC5MQC
21-KX5G
28-KJ5UY

Net times are 8:00PM.