



# The GroundWire

## Johnny's Mailbag

ISSUE 2009—05

At the April club meeting Rick Ellis volunteered to replace Don Hinkey as Director and take on the duties of program director. Don has his house on the market and is relocating to the Houston area. While I am sad to see Don leave the area I hope him the best.

Before the next club meeting the Head for The Hills Bike Rally will be behind us. Thanks to all the club members and non-club members who are participating in this event. I for one have a great time. This rally is used by the Cedar Hill Rotary Club to raise charitable funds for the Cedar Hill Community.

It is now time to concentrate on Field Day. In order to decide what class we are going to operate, as we need a commitment from those who plan on participating. The board has discussed trying to put fun as well as point total in the planning this year. We have talked about operating as an EOC station that would allow us to plug into the grid and still get the multipliers for an emergency power class if emergency power is on sight. That would eliminate the need to use generators and the gasoline supply to be safer and save labor and money. It is my opinion we have escalated the complexity and manual labor needed to set up and tear down we are too exhausted to operate what we install. I think we need to adjust our operation so as to have the energy to effectively operate what we put up. Being effective at the class level we enter will allow us to be successful. It is your club and I will try to do what you want for Field Day, but in the end we can only do what the members are willing to support.

HamCom is coming up soon and Rick has secured the tables again this year. The Club has reimbursed Rick for getting the tables and Club members are welcome to use them to sell any of their treasures. It is usually a meeting place for Club members and a place to set and rest a few minutes.

Charlie Martin, a past member has arranged for some equipment and junk box items that belonged to a SK to be donated to the club for the benefit of newer amateur operators. I have picked this stuff up and have it in my shack. As time permits I will try to sort it so we might see what we can use and what we may sell at Ham Comm. If anyone has an interest in helping me sort please let me know.



### In This Issue

#### **PAGE TWO**

*Johnny's Mailbag continued  
Minutes; General Meeting continued*

#### **PAGE TWO**

*ARRL Newsletter Article:  
Submitted by Ben K5NEB*

#### **PAGE FOUR**

*Financial Report  
Coming Events*

#### **PAGE FIVE**

*Minutes of Board Meeting*

#### **PAGE SIX**

*Minutes of General Meeting  
Program Announcements  
NCS Schedule*



Continued ... from page 1

Jerry Keltner, Drena Cromaz, Pat Roberson and I did parking lot detail at the Winsor Park Baptist Church Market Place Easter program Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings before Easter. It was a chance to use the Talkies and support the church that lets us use their facilities for meetings and events. Pastor Chris presented the club with a Certificate of Appreciation for the clubs help with parking lot duties.

David Lusk gave a short review of the OK QSO Party and Mike Harang gave a presentation about circuit board design software and the switch boxes for a Christmas Light display he builds. If you have a favorite part of the hobby or related hobby and would like to talk about it at a club meeting please talk to Rick Ellis or Mike Harang and they will be happy to schedule it.

I want to thank all the members who are active and encourage those who enjoy ham radio to join in the activities. I have made a lot of friends being involved in the things the club does. These friendships are the best part of ham radio. Make time in your schedule to join in all the fun. "We'll leave the light on for ya"

Johnny

Continued ... page 6

who is retiring from this position. Rick will be over programs, Mike Harang said he would help with programs.

**Club Shirts:**-Floyd Rodgers KC5QBC requested that Bill Ellis N5TXN send out a broadcast message to inquire if anyone still needed a club shirt, this might be the last chance before we will need to locate a new vendor.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business

### **Programs:**

- Dave Lusk N5UV presented a program on the Oklahoma QSO event. Jerry Keltner KB6OJE and Dave Lusk participated making 1100 contacts and traveling 392 miles.
- Mike Harang K5MMH presented a program on a 120v switch with 7 channels that he made. The website for this easy to use freeware is: ExpressPCB.com

Motion to adjourn: Johnny Roberson KJ5LB  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Pat Roberson KB5YPP



Reprinted from ARRL Newsletter ... Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Editor

## Teaching

It has been said that if you stand in the rain you are going to get wet, which simply stated means that if you just show up you are going to learn something.

Everyday we play two important roles in life, the teacher and more importantly that of the student. We can identify these roles through Amateur Radio and our radio club activities.

Often we think of the instructor and student roles in a traditional classroom setting or a training session but when you think about it there are many subtle ways in which we impart knowledge to others or broaden our own understanding of a topic. A lot of what we do in life has been learned from watching others and then trying it ourselves. Think about this when you are on the air. Anyone who has ever tuned a radio receiver is well aware that more people are listening to a conversation on the radio waves than the two stations directly in QSO. Each time we key the transmitter we are teaching by example and hopefully these are all good lessons. Observation and listening on the air is a great way to learn the ropes but eventually we have to experience something to become proficient. Sure, we may stumble in the beginning but experience is a great teacher and provides us with lessons that can never be learned in a classroom. Eventually the student will become the teacher and the cycle continues.

## Know Code

This cute play on words is used by many Morse aficionados who want to world to think that in order to be a "real ham" one must be proficient at telegraphy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the early part of the twentieth century many ships at sea used Morse code to communicate and knowledge of the code was required so as to not cause interference to seafaring communications.

In the USA and many other countries Morse proficiency is no longer a requirement for any Amateur Radio license but it is still a favorite operating mode for many however if we are to be effective communicators in the twenty-first century then we will need to know a lot more than Morse code. Basic computer skills such as saving and sending files, configuring software programs and interfacing transceivers with computers have become characteristic with Amateur Radio today. A working knowledge of wireless networking and digital communication can prove to be invaluable during an emergency.

Submitted by Ben Barber (K5NEB)

## Financial Report ... April 2009



<b>General Fund</b>	Income	Expense	Balance
Beginning Balance 4/1/09			\$1,148.24
<b>INCOME/EXPENSE</b>			
Dues Income-2009	\$25.00		
Transfer From Matl. Property			
Transfer Petty Cash income			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
PO Box rental 6 mo.		\$29.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$29.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$29.00</b>	
Ending Balance 4/30/2009			\$1,144.24
<b>Special Events Fund</b>			
Beginning Balance 4/1/09			\$89.73
<b>INCOME/EXPENSE</b>			
Trans from General Fund			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
Ending Balance 4/30/2009			\$89.73
<b>Material Property Fund</b>			
Beginning Balance 4/1/09			\$2,125.12
<b>INCOME/EXPENSE</b>			
Dues Income - 2009	\$25.00		
Transfer from General Fund			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Telephone Ck 580		\$34.54	
Transfer to General Fund			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$34.54</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$34.54</b>	
Ending Balance 4/30/2009			\$2,115.58
<b>April Totals</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$63.54</b>	<b>\$3,349.55</b>

## Upcoming Events

Make your Calendars and come out and support your club.



**May 9th**

## Ham-Com 2009

The Biggest Hamfest in Texas  
June 12 - 13



**June 27th and June 28th**

## Minutes of Board Meeting ... April 2009



The meeting was called to order by President Johnny Roberson KJ5LB at 6:30pm. Johnny also gave the invocation. Board Members present: Johnny Roberson, KJ5LB, Mike Harang K5MMH, Drena Cromaz KK5YC, & Jerry Keltner KB6OJE. Guests: Pat Roberson KB5YPP.

**Treasurer Report:** Motion to approve as printed in the *Groundwire* made by Drena Cromaz and 2nd by Mike Harang.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Repeater**-Johnny Roberson reported no problems with the computer.

**Membership**-Jerry Keltner reported that we now have 44 paid members and no new membership applications have been received.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Jerusalem Market Place**-This Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Need additional operators to help with parking.

**Head for the Hills Bike Rally**-Mike Harang advised still need volunteers to help. We need to schedule use of the club box and get the club banner & banner stand for the event.

**Field Day**-Mike Harang reported that a possible location for this year's Field Day is at the Cedar Hill EOC.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Club Donation**-Johnny Roberson advised that he had been contacted by Charlie Martin. A friend of Charlie Martin passed away & has donated several boxes of "ham gear" to the club. There are lots of parts and an oscilloscope. Johnny will be going through the boxes to determine how best to determine what can be sold at Ham-Com.

**Director Duties**-A discussion was held regarding the duties for the 2009 Directors.

**PROGRAM:** TBA

Motion to adjourn by Jerry Keltner with 2nd by Johnny Roberson

Submitted by: Drena Cromaz, Secretary

### 2009 Board Members

#### President

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

#### Vice-President

Mike Harang (K5MMH)

#### Treasurer

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

#### Secretary

Drena Cromaz (KK5YC)

#### Directors

Floyd Rodgers (KC5QBC) -  
Material Property

Rick Ellis (KJ5UY) -  
Programs

Scott Crappa (KE5NLK) -  
Membership

### Committee Positions

#### Repeater Trustee

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

#### Web Master

Russ Thompson (KX5G)

#### 2009 Field Day

Mike Harang (K5MMH)

## General Membership Meeting ... April 2009



The meeting was called to order & invocation presented by President Johnny Roberson, KJ5LB. Twenty members were present and one guest.

**Treasurer:** Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE) As posted in the *Groundwire* motion to accept by Scott Crappa KE5NLK, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Ellis KJ5UY

**Minutes:** Motion to approve made by: Bill Ellis N5TXN 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Scott Crappa KE5NLK

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Repeater:** Johnny Roberson KJ5LB reported there was a problem but it is now fixed.

**Membership:** No new members. Scott Crappa KE5NLK will be the director over membership.

**MRC:** Floyd Rodgers KC5QBC advised no new activities

**Net:** Russ Thompson KX5G reported 8 check ins on 04/20/09.

**VE Tests:** Rick Ellis KJ5UY reported there will be approximate 20 students upon completion of the tech/general classes.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Jerusalem Market Place:** Richard Baker N5KXA thanked the membership for their participation in the event. The pastor presented the club with a framed letter of appreciation.

**VE:Tech/General Class:** Rick Ellis KJ5UY advised that there were 22 tech students and 9 general students and 20 or more will be ready to test.

**Head for the Hills:** Mike Harang K5MMH, Asked for additional volunteers. See Mike if you can help with the event on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Bring and use your digital camera, the club needs photos.

**Ham Com:** Rick Ellis KJ5UY reported we have 2 tables for members to sell their wares. Johnny Roberson reported a donation made to the club by the family of a silent key. He asked for volunteer (s) to go through the boxes & determine the best use of the equipment.

**Field Day:** Mike Harang K5MMH advised that they are still determining the location for the event also if the club will be a 3A or a 3F station. Russ Thompson to contact the Desoto Fire Marshall for a possible site.

**Director Duties:** Scott Crappa KE5NLK will be over membership, Floyd Rodgers KC5QBC will be over material management. Rick Ellis KJ5UY has volunteered to take over the 2 year position of Don Hickey KD5SCZ

Continued ... on page 2

*May*



TBA

### *2009 NCS Schedule*

May

4-KC5MQC

11-KX5G

18-K5NEB

25-KJ5UY

**Net times are Mondays at  
8:00PM**

**Primary frequency is  
147.060+ (110.9 PL)  
with the alternate  
frequency being 444.500+**