

# TheGroundWire

May 2003

Volume 2003, issue 5

**Inside this issue:**

<b>AMATEURS PITCH IN</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>VEEP BEEPS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>3-5</b>

**May  
Membership  
Meeting  
Program:  
APRS**

**2METER  
NCSSchedule**

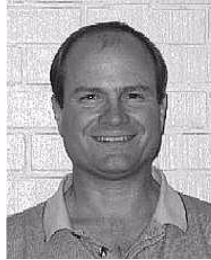
**May2003**

**05-KB5TMD  
12-KC5MQC  
19-KC5CPO  
26-NoNet -  
MemorialDay**

**June2003**

**02-W5WB  
09-KJ5UY  
16-KC5MQC  
23-KC5CPO  
30-KB5TMD**

## PRESIDENT'SNOTES



### Egg Eating Dogs, Taxes, and Other Radio Related Subjects....

Greetings radio friends! Just got back from Kauai, Hawaii and guess what....Echolink doesn't exist there. I always carry an HT with me on trips in hopes of locating a good repeater linked to the IRLP or Echolink to try and contact members back home. This time, no such luck. One private station was listed occasionally on Echolink but none of the very few repeaters showed up. If you're not familiar with Echolink, it is simply a way to connect through your computer sound card and Internet provider, to many other VHF/UHF stations and repeaters throughout the world. The software is free for the downloading at <http://www.synergienics.com/el/>. Give it a try. It's borderline radio (you don't need one to use it) and lotsoffun.

The SWDCARC Easter Egg and Fox Hunt, at Valley Ridge Park in Cedar Hill, was an absolute success! Rick Ellis, KJ5UY, put on his usual sadis-

tic transmitter hunt, complete with a dummy 'fox' hung on a fence close to the real fox that said "this is not the fox" on it. Louis Wilpitz (KD5TQI) won the event in record time. Even better, this was his first transmitter hunt! After the fox hunt, an Easter Egg hunt took place. Sarah Rodgers won hands down but with a sad/funny caveat....a (5 dozen!) the plastic eggs had been broken into and the candy eaten by a phantom stray dog! Sarah did win some coinage though. The hound seemed to prefer the candy over the money. After the events, we all settled down for the usual incredible food that shows up at these events. Bernie, KC5MQC, brought his K1 transceiver, and strung a wire antenna over the pavilion for some CW fun. This was an all evening affair and well worth repeating next year. With dog proof egg stime.

Some of you might have noticed that, once again, the club has changed meeting locations. Upon arriving at Lunay Sollast month, a sigh was found plastered on the front door of the restaurant stating that the property has been taken over by the State of Texas due to non payment of state taxes. I doubt the state prepares passable Mexican food, needless to say, it was a shock to find this on our meeting day. Thanksto Russ, KX5G, for scrambling to the rescue and finding us a place to meet. So, until further notice, GoldenCo r-

ral, at 3502 W Camp Wisdom Road next to Southwest Center Mall, will be our meeting place. Taxes... que lastima!

Field Day will be held at Valley Ridge Park in Cedar Hill this year. The City of Cedar Hill has been very gracious to allow us to use their facilities. They also expressed interest in forming an ongoing relationship to make use of our services in various public events as well as emergency preparedness. This year's Field Day will be 'wire antenna day' with emphasis on quick emergency setup and takedown. This should be a great learning experience for all of us. Please get involved!

SWDCARC stands to gain several new members in the coming months. Rick Ellis's famous radio licensing class has attracted several local ham's-to-be including 11 members of the MARK-9 search and rescue group. I'm currently training with that group and find their interests tie right in with amateur radio. Also, Dave Tucker, KC5CPO, has been holding licensing classes for youngsters with great success. I love seeing kids become interested in this hobby. They will be the future of the radio art!

73, Paul, KD5IVP

## AMATEUR SUPPORT TORNADO RELIEF - RECOVERY EFFORTS

Amateurs in Missouri, Kansas, and Tennessee this week continued relief and recovery support in the wake of a severe outbreak of deadly tornadoes May 4 that also affected other states. Oklahoma City -area amateurs responded to a sister after a tornado hit that region May 8. At week's end, the death toll from the May 4 storms stood at 40; many more were injured, and countless homes and other structures were damaged or destroyed. Thousands of residents in the stricken areas were left without power or telephone service. Those left homeless by the storms have been taking refuge in Red Cross shelters or with friends or relatives. Amateur Radio operators have been assisting in damage assessment as well as providing communication support for the Red Cross and The Salvation Army's shelter and feeding efforts.

In Kansas, ARRL Section Manager Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, reports severe damage in two counties, with houses destroyed and utilities out in the path of the twister. The tornado remained on the ground for 90 minutes, plowing through Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties in Kansas before crossing the border into Platte and Clay counties in Missouri. The funnel cloud finally lifted northeast of Kansas City.

"Wyandotte/Kansas City RACES was active with spotting and later damage assessment," Cowan said. RACES went on standby on May 5. Johnson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) opened a VHF net, coordinated by EC and Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) Coordinator June Jeffers, KB0WEQ, within 30 minutes of touchdown. SATERN members and other ham radio volunteers assisted Salvation Army canteens that rolled in immediately after the storm.

Cowan said Crawford County in southeastern Kansas also suffered major damage. Most affected was the area north of Pittsburg and the communities of Girard and Franklin, which were right in the storm's path.

In Missouri, ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Don Moore, KM0R, said tornado damage was reported throughout the greater Kansas City area. Moore has been posting updates on the Missouri Section ARES Web site <http://www.ares-mo.org/may0403storms.asp>. He said multiple nets --including ARES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and SKYWARN --relayed storm information to emergency officials on May 4 and later assisted with damage assessment. The National Weather Service credited ham radio operators with dozens of storm-related reports over the

weekend.

Hams in Pierce City --in the direct path of one tornado and especially hard hit --were using a repeater in nearby Aurora to supplement public safety communication. Hams in Southwest Missouri also handled health-and-welfare inquiries via the Missouri Traffic Net (3963 kHz).

In West Tennessee, May 4 marked the second time in four years that the Jackson-Madison County area was devastated by tornadoes. "Lives were lost and people injured," said Madison County ECKenny Johns, AB4EG.

Some 27,000 residents remain without power, Johns reported, adding that the tornado made a direct hit on the emergency operations center. The storm also did not spare the sheriff's department, the post office or the federal building in Jackson.

"First day was shock, second day was just deciding what to do first, third day recovery was well under way, fourth day there was more hope, help and a great county spirit," Johns said. Johns said an ARES net was in operation in West Tennessee. "Right now we are able to handle it," he said at week's end. "Hams from surrounding counties are helping. Their efforts have been appreciated." Even as the massive cleanup effort began, forecasters were calling for additional severe weather in the days ahead. Flooding from continued heavy rains was an additional complication.

In Oklahoma, ARRL Section Manager John Thomason, WB5SYT, reports that amateurs responded "within minutes" of a tornado that struck the Oklahoma City area May 8. They remained in place at week's end. More than 100 people reportedly were injured, and the tornado leveled or damaged hundreds of structures, including a General Motors manufacturing plant. Hardest hit was the suburb of Moore. The storm left more than 30,000 homes without power.

"Emergency communication, delivering supplies to Salvation Army canteens and helping with health and welfare are in process," Thomason said. "This tornado hit some of the same areas as did the F5 tornado of May 1999." The 1999 storm claimed nearly 50 lives.

To keep an open frequency for amateurs to support The Salvation Army's relief efforts, the FCC has declared a general communications emergency for the Oklahoma area. Effective immediately, amateurs are required to refrain from using 3900 kHz, plus or minus 3 kHz, unless they are taking part in the handling of emergency traffic. The order remains in effect until rescinded.

"The Amateur Radio effort will be under way for some time."  
(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)  
time," Thomason said.

In a message to his Section, Thomason advised patience with the public, the process and other Amateur Radio volunteers. "By pulling together during these times the public, which desperately needs our help, benefits," he said.

*Thanks to The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League for this article.*

## Veep Beeps

Greetings again. This edition of the GW is timely in a couple of ways. First, it allows me to announce with fair confidence the program for the upcoming monthly meeting. Dave Tucker (KC5CPO) has organized a program on APRS. I'd tell you what that stands for, but it would remove luster from the meeting. I can tell you our speaker is Glen Frasier (KD5DMG), let's make him feel very welcome.

Next, I can tell you that field day is shaping up nicely. We have a new location for our event in 2003. Our setup will be at Valley Ridge Park in Cedar Hill, off of Lake Ridge Parkway. I know, it's still confusing me a bit, too. Paul (KD5IVP) and I are working with the city to make this a possible permanent site, with your input, of course. We will have height and open spaces to work with this year. This time we also are looking at a mostly "Long Wire Day" as a theme. Because of our past situation of a shortage of teardown folks on Sunday Mornings past, and tired people who are there, this is a possible resolution for both. The city of Cedar Hill is excited to have us for this event and we look forward to a great time. More to come.

As of this writing, there is still no venue for the next monthly meeting, keep checking our home page for the latest, and on 147.06 for the chatter.

Finally, thank so much for the interest in the slow speed CW chat time on Monday nights. The frequency has moved, in case you did not get the word, to 80 meters. 3535 +/- QRM issues. We've heard from more people since we're on a more friendly frequency and it's opened up the time for others far away to hear us. We've had a check in from Austin recently. Very cool.

We have a great, and growing club. It's exciting and I'm blessed to be a part of it with you.

73 Bernie McPartland  
KC5MQC



Bernie McPartland (KC5MQC) and Dean Phillips (KC5MQD) in action installing a J-Pole antenna on Todd Huovinen's (KB5TMD) house in March. Bernie is the ham for the camera on the left and Dean is the shy one behind the chimney. Thanks guys!

**FORSALE** by original owner: FT-847 Yaesu HF+6M + 2M + 70 CM All Mode Transceiver in excellent condition. Does satellite modes and more! Complete with microphone, power cord, etc in original box.. Non-smoker. \$975.00 Contact Danny Cromaz W5WB for more details via dcromaz@swbell.net or 972-227-3343

### April Board of Directors Minutes

President Paul Dryer called the Board of Directors Meeting to order on April 1, 2003 at the Luna y Sol Restaurant in Desoto at 6:33 PM. The board members in attendance were Paul Dryer, Rick Ellis, Bernie McPartland, Johnny Roberson and Todd Huovinen.

Guests in attendance were Drena Cromaz, Pat Roberson, Donna Dees, Rebecca Ellis, Dave Tucker, Neal Palmquist, Floyd Rogers, and Aaron McCarthy.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Johnny Roberson presented the treasurer report and it was approved and sprinted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Repeater-** Johnny Roberson reported no updates and the repeater was working well.

**VE Testing :** Rick Ellis reported that he is holding tech classes the first 3 Saturdays in May with VE testing on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. He will forward information to Danny Cromaz for details to be posted to the web page. **Net**

**Reports-** Todd Huovinen reported that he took over the net for Dave Tucker due to technical difficulties, there were 13 check ins. **Membership:** Rick Ellis reported that membership packets had been mailed to Will Turk

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

and Terry Johnson but will call them to confirm receipt. Paul Dryer advised that our club Outreach needed improvement. Possibly a visitor card to fill out then the membership chairman could give them a follow up telephone call. It is important that the membership welcome any new member and guests. **Special Events** : Rebecca Ellis reported that the **Easter Egg/Transmitter Hunt** would be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4PM. Drena Cromaz reminded everyone that the club webpage had details as well as a map to the event. Additional upcoming events will be the **Memorial Day Weekend Special Events** station at the Lancaster Library on May 24<sup>th</sup>, a **Tailgate party** at Ham Coms sometime during the June 20, 21, 22. It was agreed that any details and announcements regarding special events would be emailed to the club Groundwire editor/webmaster.

**OLD BUSINESS : Bio-Terrorism**-Aaron will meet with the Dallas County at 2727 Stemmon on April 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss logistical information. Dallas County is putting together a media room and he will be working with the information officer. **Mark 9** -Paul Dryer reported that our club goal is to put together an Emergency radio stations system. A committee of Paul Dryer, Rick Ellis, Floyd Rogers and Aaron McCarthy was formed as a Portable Station Committee. Paul Dryer attended the map and compass class held by Mark 9 last Saturday and the club can help schedule classes and get the Mark 9 members to attend a Technician Class Amateur Radio License. Paul Dryer requested that Danny Cromaz contact John McPherson of Mark 9 via his website to discuss each of the clubs links showing up on each other's WebPages. Paul Dryer also discussed the various classifications as noted on the Mark 9 web page. There are several different levels of participation and he would like to see at least 10 club members participate at some level. An example of "Fast Team" would require 65% of the year Saturday commitment of participation in Mark 9 events. Other level requires different levels of participation.

**Field Day Site** -Paul Dryer reported that the committee is still determining a site for field day 2003. The Mt. Lebanon site wants \$100 plus \$3.00 per head. The Crawford site has lots of trees but only 1 electrical outlet plus kids soccer could propose a parking problem. The park where the Chili Cook Off was held in Desoto is available but Paul Dryer will check with the city for the sports schedule, as there are quite a few baseball diamonds there. Bernie McPartland will check the availability of the original Duncanville Park as well other locations.

**NEW BUSINESS** : Dave Tucker announced his involvement with young people by forming the **Joshua Amateur Radio Club**. Rick Ellis presented a recent orientation to the group and with classes, 6 new licensed hams and 10 more working on getting their licenses. The first club meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup> and VE testing will also be done then. Dave requests technical support and leadership in the form of Elmer's. Dave praised our club and would not only like his kids to see what a family club does but to learn from our

club as well. It was decided that his group would make monetary donation when participating in our club events and our club will encourage them to become associate members, Dave Tucker is also looking for any donation of radio equipment to this newly formed club.

Aaron McCarthy reported that there is a South Dallas ARC that meets at the Polk -Camp Wisdom Library and he will invite them to join our club. Paul Dryer would like the club to have a designated HF frequency for when we travel. It would be SSB and the frequencies published on the webpage.

**Program**: Bernie McPartland reported that he had a half of a program. He is working with the Chief of Engineering at the radio station to possibly set up a field trip to the Cedar Hill transmitter site. It is only in the planning stages so far. Rick Ellis reported that there would be **Monthly Fox Hunts** from now and through the summer. The next Fox Hunt will be May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9AM (on foot) with the park to be announced. He will email Danny Cromaz with details for the Groundwire. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56PM

Respectfully submitted by Drena Cromaz for Danny Cromaz, Secretary

### April General Membership Minutes

Paul Dryer, President called the General Membership Meeting to order at 6:34p on April 15, 2003 with 22 in attendance. The minutes were approved as read as posted in the Groundwire. Johnny Roberson gave the financial report and noted that there were currently 62 paid members. Committee Reports: **Repeater**-It is working well and Mitch Dees hit it from 150 miles out, this was the same day that the repeater was also picking up Oklahoma. **VE Testing** -None for April. Rick Ellis is having tech classes beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 3pm at his church in Duncanville. Contact Rick Ellis if you would like to attend. **Net Report** -Bernie McPartland held the 2m net with 17 check INS and Bernie also held the 80m net with 5 check INS on CW. **Membership**-Rick Ellis reported no new members. **Special Events** -There will be a **Ham Com tailgate party**, Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. The **Lancaster Library Special Event Station** will be on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The **Chili Cook off** is Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> and the next **foxhunt** will be May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Valley Ridge Park in Cedar Hill. The past Fox Hunt/Easter Egg hunt was held and included 5 teams hunting for the fox. First place went to Louis Wilpitz (This was his 1<sup>st</sup> time ever fox hunt), Second to Paul Dryer and Third to Floyd Rogers. Sarah Rodgers won the Easter egg hunt. Bernie McPartland set up his QRP rig at the event and all had fun.

**Field Day** Committee- Bernie McPartland reported that the committee will meet immediately after the membership

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ship meeting to discuss site options and equipment options. **Special Interests** - Paul Dryer reported that there have been a few email concerning the announced special interest groups and we will give it a little more time to see what groups for and also alternate activities.

**OLD BUSINESS : Club rosters** have been distributed and Danny Cromaz is still looking for email corrections and correct telephone numbers for members. If any corrections are needed please advise Danny as soon as possible. **Mark 9** -

Paul Dryer attended the first class on compass navigation. He plans to continue the classes, which should take a year to complete all of them. Members are encouraged to look at the web site and sign up for whatever levels that interest you. As a club we should also look into starting a tech class for the Mark 9 group as they are currently using Family radios for communication. Paul Dryer will contact them regarding starting in Rick Ellis classes which start on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS : Portable Station Committee** - Paul Dryer added Russ Thompson and Larry McFarland as members to this committee. A brainstorming meeting will be held to determine what equipment is needed. They will also be looking for donations of equipment. Danny Cromaz suggested that we inventory the equipment that had already been donated and possibly rent a table at Ham Com and sell some to purchase new equipment. **Joshua Amateur Radio Club** - It was pointed out that our club by-laws already allow for a student membership (ages 25 and under who are full time students). Membership dues are \$10.00, the same as an associate member and would hold no office or voting privileges. **HF club travel** - it was decided that the club would use SSB frequency 7258 mhz sundown to noon and 14258 mhz noon to sundown and Danny Cromaz would note this on the "contact Us" web page. These frequencies would be the first ones used when members are traveling out of town and have HF capabilities in their vehicles. **PROGRAM:** Bernie McPartland introduced Russ Thompson who gave the program. Russ held a Texas County Quiz to see who knew the most north Texas counties in preparation for the upcoming storm season. Todd Huovinen won. Additional maps listing the Texas Counties and their location were handed out to those present. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Danny Cromaz - W5WB Secretary

## May Board of Directors Minutes

The SWDCA RC Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by President, Paul Dryer at 6:30 PM at the pavilion at Armstrong Park in Duncanville. In board members and guests present include Paul Dryer, Bernie McPartland, Danny Cromaz, Johnny Roberson, Todd Huovinen, Richard Baker, Rick Ellis, Rebecca Ellis, John Langridge, Neal Palmquist and Drena Cromaz.

The previous minutes were approved as posted and the treasurer report was approved without corrections.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Repeater** - Johnny Robertson reported working ok.

**VE Testing** - Paul Dryer reported none held. Rick Ellis requested additional VE's for May 17<sup>th</sup> as there may be 20 - 30 people testing from his classes. It will be at the Church of Latter Day Saints, 1013 Big Stone Gap, Duncanville.

**Net Reports** - Todd Huovinen reported 15 check-in on 2m and Bernie McPartland reported 3.5 check in on the CW net. **Membership/Outreach program** - Rick Ellis advised nothing new to report & no new members. **Special Events** - Rebecca Ellis said that the **Lancaster Veteran Memorial Library** is still having the special event station on May 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate its second anniversary. Rick Ellis volunteered to make up the special event QSL cards.

**Field Day** - Bernie McPartland reported that the event would be held at the Valley Ridge Park in Cedar Hill. A motion was made and seconded that the board would buy the meat and the general membership would bring a covered dish to the Saturday evening dinner. The theme for field day this year will be wire antennas. The board also voted to check price to replace some of the wire/coax that the club owns for this year's field day. Danny Cromaz volunteered to order a new club banner since the one the club had used in the past has not been located for a couple of years.

**Materials Committee** - Paul Dryer and Danny Cromaz agreed to contact Adam Adkins who has the equipment that has been donated to the club to make an inventory and see what can be sold. Neal Palmquist has offered an alternate site to store the equipment.

**Portable Station** - Paul Dryer reported that it is a club goal to set up a portable station that can be used to transport to various sites. There was discussion about selling current equipment that the club has in order to purchase new equipment to have equipment donated to the club.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Meeting Site** - The Board agreed that next month's meeting would be held at the Golden Corral at Southwest Mall in Duncanville if available. Paul Dryer will make the reservations and see how many months could be booked in advance.

**501c.3** - The Board will look into filing the club 501c.3a application for our non-profit status. The board has been unable to determine the club's previous 501c.3 status and it will be presented to the general membership for a vote.

**(Editors Note : Status was verified that SWDCARC is a 501c3 non-profit organization in good standing since 1980 via the Texas State Comptroller's website that evening)**

**PROGRAM** - Dave Tucker - KC5CPO will present the program on APRS.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully,

Danny Cromaz - W5WB