

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the
Bell County Communications Center, 798 West Avenue O, in Belton**

President's Corner

Kenneth Watkins, KE5ISN

Welcome to the first edition of the CTARC Newsletter. I would like to thank Rick, K6WXA, for taking on this project as editor for the club. Many of you have requested a newsletter and I know that Rick is eager to get this project up and running. Rick will need all of you to help him to make this a quality product by providing suggestions and articles - yes articles - for the newsletter. So if you have any comments, suggestions or articles please send them to Rick at: k6wxa@yahoo.com

April 17 was the Belton HamExpo! and I got to see some of you there. Due to the rain, the outside tailgaters were not able to set up and I missed seeing this, however, many were able to move inside. This year was the first time that I did not find any new toys that I just had to have. Hope that you were able to find what you wanted. The report from the VE test session was that we now have 13 new Tech's, 7 General's and 3 Extra's. Congratulations are in order to all of you and hope to catch you on the bands. Thank you to N5ZXJ and his team of VE's for providing the test session.


TARC and CTARC have been asked by the Kiwanis Club of Temple to provide communications and APRS tracking for the Tour d' Temple Bike Ride. This will be held on Saturday,


May 22, 2010. Check elsewhere in the newsletter for more information.

Looks like storm season has arrived; on Friday, April 23, the severe weather started mid afternoon and lasted until 2:00 AM on Saturday. Then on the afternoon of April 26th, more storms entered the area. Numerous storm reports were given to the NWS FWD office. NWS forecasters are calling for another round of storms starting on April 30th through May 3rd. Remember to monitor the 147.14 repeater and provide any storm reports for your area.

Here are a couple of dates that you may want on place on your calendar: June 11-12 Ham-Com will be in Plano with the ARRL Western Gulf Division taking place on the 12th. And finally, Field Day is the weekend of June 26 – 27th. More information on this will be available next month.

With all of this being said, hope to hear you on the net on Thursday nights. 73 de KE5ISN

 The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the W5BEC repeater, on 147.140(+) PL 123.0 Join Us!

 "Saskatchewan is much like Texas - except it's more friendly to the United States."
- *Adlai E. Stevenson*



VE Test Session Summary for 17 April in Belton...

Joe Dorn, W5VEX

We had a very successful VE test session at the Belton Police Station on Saturday. We had 26 sign up to take tests, 3 of which re-tested plus one upgrade via a grandfathered Tech License. The ARRL total count was 30 and as a result, we will have:

13 new Technician's
7 new General's and
3 new Extra's

The fourteen VE's participating were:

Priscilla Beauregard, KE5UES
Kevin Bolton, W5KVN
Marion Bolton, W5MNB
Teddy Bruski, KE5UET
Robert Bullard, WD3T
James Cleveland, N5ONI
Joe Dorn, W5VEX
Jan Gregg, W5GNK
Ross Gregg, W5ANW
Mike Hankins, KI5M
Mike Rhoden, W5MIK
Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ
Michael Sherrod, WB5PBS
Ron Thompson, W5WRE

Five of the fourteen are TARC members, five are CTARC members, three were visitors from other areas here for the Expo and the other three were VE's from the area that are always there when we need them. Before someone challenges my math, two VE's are members of both clubs.

Once again, a special thanks to Mike Rhoden, W5MIK, for making the Belton Municipal Court and Police Station available to us for the test session.



Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ

I have been asked to see if I can get some help from some of the local radio clubs to help with some weather radio displays in the local area HEB stores in May. The purpose is to help people that buy a Midland WR-100 weather radio, to get the very basic programming done while they are in the store after they have purchased them.

You might get interviewed by either Nick, Andy or Lynae while doing so and be asked about Skywarn activities. Only thing I ask is that we have a very neat appearance if we are interviewed for the events.

The dates and locations for Weather Radio Appearances are as follows:
5/4 Tuesday 9100 Woodway Dr., Waco 4p-7p; 5/11 Tuesday 2511 Trimmer Rd., Killeen 4p-7p; 5/18 Thursday 3002 S. 31st St, Temple 4p-7p and 5/25 Tuesday 9100 Woodway Dr., Waco 4p-7p.

If you may be interested in helping with this, please contact me at:

n5zxj@arrl.net

Memorial Day





The Kiwanis Club of Temple has asked for communications assistance for the 2010 *Tour d' Temple* on Saturday, May 22nd. The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club and the Temple Amateur Radio Club have agreed to assist them. We are in need of volunteers to provide communication support at rest stops, in route communications and APRS tracking on each route.

Mobile radios are needed to track the last rider on each of the 4 routes and rovers to assist riders by returning them to the start/finish line. Any radio operators that have APRS trackers would be a very valuable asset for this event. Last year we met at the race start line at 7:00 AM with the last riders returning back at 2:00 PM.

If you could assist us, even if only for an hour or two, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kenneth, KE5ISN if you would like to assist and provide the following information:

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
Radio Information:
2 m Mobile___2 m HT___2 m Portable
Base_____
APRS Tracker: _____
SSID: _____

Requested Assignment:

10K (Route Chaser) (Rover)
25K (Route Chaser) (Rover) (White Hall Rest Stop)
50K (Route Chaser) (Rover) (FM 1237 Rest Stop)
100K (Route Chaser) (Rover) (Mother Neff Rest Stop)

Communications for the event will be conducted through the W5BEC repeater, on 147.140(+) PL 123.

For more information with links to route maps and the event itself, please visit the Temple Kiwanis website at: http://www.templekiwanis.org/tour_d'_temple.htm

Educational Opportunities



This past month, FEMA introduced two new courses to its independent study program. The first, IS-245 *Introduction to the Defense Priorities and Allocations System* describes how DPAS supports the FEMA mission. The second, IS-901 *Section 508 Awareness Course* covers the federal law regarding persons with disabilities and their equal rights to Electronics and IT access in the workplace.

These courses as with all of FEMA's courses, are available to the public and are free of charge. Most of the courses are worth college credits and all come with a certificate of course completion.

For a complete list of all the courses available through FEMA, please visit: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslst.asp>

Also released this past month, were the last units for the *S290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior* course offered through the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research – Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology Education & Training. This is an excellent course covering the effects that weather plays in a wildland fire environment.

For a complete listing of all courses offered by UCAR/COMET please visit: <https://www.met.ed.ucar.edu/loginForm.php>



Drone aircraft to aid tornado research study in Great Plains

Jeff Martin, USA TODAY

Scientists plan to launch unmanned aerial vehicles over the Great Plains May 1 to June 15 in hopes of getting a better idea of how tornadoes form.

The remote-controlled planes, known as UAVs, will be part of a broad tornado study — VORTEX 2 — that will start its second phase May 1, says Don Burgess, a research scientist with the University of Oklahoma.

The study will take place in parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri, says Keli Tarp, a spokeswoman with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Partners in Norman, Oklahoma.

VORTEX 2 (Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment 2), which began last spring, is the largest-ever tornado experiment, Tarp says. The original VORTEX study in the mid-1990s helped inspire the Hollywood film *Twister*.

The UAVs are able to gather data high above the ground, providing a unique look at the storm, Burgess says. Researchers believe they might be on the verge of a discovery about tornado formation, says Josh Wurman, president of the Center for Severe Weather Research in Boulder, Colorado.

In recent months, scientists have examined data collected about a June 5 Wyoming tornado by sophisticated radar and other equipment during the project's first phase last spring, Wurman says.

The Wyoming storm showed them a secondary gust front that formed just before it spawned a tornado, he said.

A single gust front is common in supercells — storms capable of producing a tornado. The discovery of the second gust front — and its potential role in creating a tornado — has researchers intrigued, Wurman says.



The UAVs should provide an even better look, says Adam Houston, an assistant professor of meteorology at the University of Nebraska. The Federal Aviation Administration approved the data-collecting airplanes for flights up to 1,000 feet in parts of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska in the past year, says Brian Argrow, director of the University of Colorado's Research and Engineering Center for Unmanned Vehicles. The UAV in this study is a lightweight propeller airplane with a 10-foot wingspan, he said.

Funding for the VORTEX 2 project is about \$12 million from various sources, including the National Science Foundation, Burgess says.

This year, 76 tornadoes have been reported, 36% of the average, says Greg Forbes, of The Weather Channel. Greg Carbin of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., says he expects more as May approaches.



{ Though this has nothing to do with our hobby, the following is an extract from an article which recently appeared in the Fort Hood Sentinel and is provided as information just so you don't wind up saying, "What the heck was that?!" - Ed. }

Things that go BOOM! in the Night

*Major General William Grimsley,
Fort Hood Acting Senior Commander*

It is not unusual to hear artillery rounds exploding on the ranges at all hours of the day and night. Small arms fire can also be heard at various locations throughout the installation, as our Soldiers train in adaptive environments. Emergency responders conduct drills to hone their skills. Oftentimes we hear the familiar "whop-whop" of helicopter blades overhead or see precise formations flying in the distance.

We train. That is what we do as Soldiers, as an installation and as a military.

Fort Hood's vast size and premier training ranges also attract other services that need to maintain their combat proficiency.

Sometime over the next month, B-52 bombers out of Barksdale Air Force Base, La., will be flying to Fort Hood's Clabber Creek Range. On three consecutive nights the aircraft will make a series of bombing runs culminating in the deployment of a laser-guided 2,000-lb bomb taking out a designated target. **BOOM!** The sound and vibrations from the explosion will resonate well outside of the training area and will be heard and felt most in the Gatesville area.

Rest assured that this is scheduled training and all is well. Know that we are on point, training our nation's finest.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Rick Murray, K6WXA

I'd like to start off by saying, that as a "new guy" in the club, I am very impressed with the members of CTARC! It seems like our members are into everything... from the hard core weather fanatics, CERT, Bell County OEM, the Bell County Sheriff's Posse, ARES, to those with the talent and wisdom that can only be gained through years of experience in the amateur radio hobby. CTARC has it all!

One of the biggest facets of ham radio is mentoring and here with the newsletter, you have the opportunity to do just that. Write up an article about that activity you're involved in; or that new whiz-bang project you've put together. Even if you can't draw it, send in a scanned sketch and I can reproduce it for you; graphics is my "thing". Only thing I ask is that any contributions for the newsletter be sent to me no later than the last Friday of the month. Drop me a line at: k6wxa@yahoo.com



President: Kenneth Watkins, KE5ISN
Vice Pres: Gerald Richmond, N5ZSJ
Secretary: Priscilla Beauregard, KE5UES
Treasurer: Linda Blackmon, KE5QGN
Director: Richard Diller, KE5ULJ
Director: Kevin Epperson, K5KEV
Director/Webmaster: Russell Mezynski,
KF5LNX
Newsletter Editor: Rick Murray, K6WXA

**Coming Next Month in the
Wavelength:**

June 1st: CTARC monthly meeting,
7:00 PM, at the Bell County
Communications Center, 798 West
Avenue O, in Belton.

June 1st: Opening day of Hurricane
Season 2010

June 11-12th: Ham-Com in Plano, TX

June 14th: U.S. Flag Day

June 19th: State Holiday – Texas
Emancipation Day

June 26-27th: Field Day Weekend

...and who knows what else.

