



W5PC

THE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY NEWSLETTER

ARCPC NEWSLETTER VOLUME 17, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2007

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

BRETT SHAYLER
KE5ALK

A Better BPL for North Texas



According to an August 15 press release from Current Group, "DIRECTV, Inc. (NYSE: DTV) and CURRENT Group announced today a wholesale distribution agreement that will enable DIRECTV to offer [North Texas] customers CURRENT's innovative BPL (Broadband Over Powerline) high-speed Internet service and VoIP services at the end of 2007/beginning of 2008."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said "There is no reason to panic [over this decision]. ARRL's only concern about BPL is the

interference potential. In that regard, the approach that Current has taken to date -- limiting its use of the medium-voltage lines to 30-50 MHz and using the HomePlug standard to avoid the HF ham bands on the low-voltage drop -- has been satisfactory. If the FCC mandated what Current has been doing, we would be quite happy."

Sumner continued: "We can be glad that DirecTV chose to align itself with a BPL company that has taken the interference problem seriously and has a good track record of avoiding interference in the amateur bands."

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, commented, "ARRL and Current have communicated regularly over the past few years. Current has been an early leader in carefully choosing its design to avoid interference to Amateur Radio. They don't operate below 30 MHz on overhead lines at all, and use HomePlug technology, which doesn't use the ham bands, in customers' premises. To date, ARRL has no Amateur Radio interference reports involving Current or HomePlug equipment."



ARCPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 pm

Weatherford Community Center (Harburger Hill)

701 Narrow Street, Weatherford, TX

Talk-in on 147.040 Tone 110.9

Program: Report from Huntsville GARREC Conference, KE5ALK

LICENSE CLASSES

By: Jim Spaulding W0UO

Technician Class License
September 8 and 15

General Class License
September 22, 29, and October 6

Extra Class License
October 23, 20, 27 and November 3

Classes will run from Noon until 5 pm on Saturdays.

Contact Jim Spaulding W0UO for more information.

PARKER/PALO PINTO INFORMATION NET

Mondays at 7:00 pm on 147.040 (tone 110.9) Alt: 146.900 or 443.800

ARCPC VE TESTING

VE testing for all license classes and upgrades will be conducted on the third Thursday of each month, except November and December, at 7:00 pm at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1706 S. Main St. Weatherford. Enter side door of main building.

I'll be ready when . . .

Ready?

Back in April of 2006 on an eHam forum a guy stated that he "would be ready when you need me." I took exception to his statement and my reply is shown below.

"I'll be there when....." The strongest statement that I can make and be sure it will not be deleted is "HORSE FEATHERS!"

What you are actually saying is that you are not willing to take training, you are unwilling to commit yourself or your equipment and really think this is all a joke. "Strong words" say you. True, but also accurate words. In the Hayman fire a few years back in Colorado (you remember, 133 THOUSAND acres and lasted six WEEKS. We ran out of operators on the third DAY. Where were all of those that said "I'll be there when you need me"? No where to be found. They would not and had not made a commitment. They were not there. Six weeks, 133K acres, thousands evacuated, how much larger does it have to get?!

Most of you seem unaware that there was a Presidential Decree in 2004 that said all public service entities that receive federal dollars (that's almost every one of them) WILL have NIMS training by 2005 AND that includes volunteers working for them! Not much ambiguity there huh? Don't care if you like it or not. The Feds pay the bills in large incidents and like the saying goes about the golden rule, he with the gold makes the rules. Live with it.

Incident Command System (ICS) courses required are:

IS-100, IS-200 and IS-700. Recommended IS-800.

ALL ARE FREE people FREE. If you read at a fifth grade level it should take you no more than eight to ten hours to do ALL of them. If you want summaries, do a Google search on W0IPL and ECom. I have the summaries posted plus links to all of the FEMA courses so you can get credit.

ARECC: The ARECC courses were released almost a full year before they were ready. Due to the slow turnaround on updates, they are - almost - at the level they should have been at initial release. I'll not go into details of why on this forum.

**Amateur Radio is a hobby,
Emergency Communication is a COMMITMENT!**

What you do in spending time in training for Emergency Communication (ECom) is to establish that you have made a commitment. That commitment is what distinguishes you from a blabbering CB'er. Anyone can key the microphone and babble. It takes a communicator to expend as little time as possible on each message and yet have conveyed ALL information needed. That takes training. Training that we do NOT get in our day to day enjoyment of the hobby.

Anyone can grab a microphone and run a Billy-Joe-Bob-Sam-Phred-Al's red neck babble net. To run a true communication net, it takes training and practice. Training and practice you do not get in our normal day to day enjoyment of our hobby.

When I got my NRA certification as a firearms instructor it was not to be able to train others but rather to assure myself that I knew as much about firearms as I thought. Turns out that I was very close in how much I actually knew BUT I also learned a whole lot about how to teach that knowledge to others. THAT is why we train. To know the subject so well that we can teach others. You say "So what. I don't want to teach others." And I say - You need to be able to teach others to be effective as a communicator. It is only when you have that much knowledge that you are effective. I have yet to work an event or incident (see the ICS training for the difference between them) that I have not been able to provide real-time training to those that needed it and on a some occasions, receive more training myself.

The time you spend on training is a visible measure of how much of a commitment you are willing to make. A measure that most served agencies pay a lot of attention to. If you want to be able to go into an EOC, a Fire Base, or anything beyond the very basic evacuation shelter that the Red Cross runs (and even the Red Cross is now joining the group), the agency(ies) REQUIRE training so they know (or at least have some assurance) you know what the (bleep) you are doing. No training, no access. To those that say "If they don't want me the way I am, I'll stay home." GOOD, please stay home. Walk-on operators have proven to be detrimental to virtually every incident in the last twenty years.

Credibility is hard to build. Especially when we have overgrown CB types that walk-on to an incident and try to take over. An Amateur Radio License does NOT make you a communicator but training helps.

Pat Lambert, W0IPL
Colorado ARES Training Manager
and Colorado RACES member
E-mail at: w0ipl@arrl.net

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Jake Sez!



"We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future." - George Bernard Shaw



SECRETARY'S NOTES

Secretary's Notes, cont.

Minutes of the August 2007 Meeting

The Amateur Radio Club of Parker County met on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at the Weatherford Community Center.

Vice-president Al Warren WR5AW called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Loraine Baldwin, KD5KTF gave the invocation.

A motion to approve the minutes, as published in the newsletter, by Smokey Vulgamore, KD5VHS and seconded by Loraine, KD5KTF was approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

Richard Erickson (Eric) announced his new call sign is WD5KCS.

The Alzheimer's Memory Walk will be Oct 6, 2007 at Silverado-On-The-Brazos.

Further details and sign-up will be at the September meeting.

A letter from the Peach Pedal sponsor, Weatherford College, was read. The letter declared the 2007 ride to be a success and thanked the club members for their participation.

Brett Shayler, KE5ALK, recently appointed Section PIO Coordinator, announced a new plan for family contacts in emergencies. Also, Brett will be attending the ARRL National Convention in Huntsville, and will report his observations at the September meeting.

Old business:

The report of the generator study committee was postponed until the September meeting, as their work is unfinished at this time.

A motion to spend not more than \$900.00 to purchase the new generator by Doug May, WB5VQQ, and seconded by Brett Shayler, KE5ALK was approved by voice vote..

New Business:

Allen Beadel, KB5AB, reported that all ARES/RACES members will participate in an exercise with city & county governments and disaster relief agencies

during the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) time in October.

A motion to adjourn by Brett, KE5ALK, and seconded by Doug, WB5VQQ, was approved by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Thompson, W7JT
Secretary/Treasurer

Notes

The pizza and salad provided by Judy Wolf, KB5JEY, from member donations was quickly consumed and thoroughly enjoyed.

Some dues still remain unpaid. Single member renewals are Ten Dollars and Family renewals are Fifteen Dollars.

To those who have paid, "Thank You".

Club News

Brett Shayler accepted an appointment as Public Information Coordinator for the North Texas Section of ARRL.

Al Warren WR5AW accepted an appointment as Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Parker County ARES/RACES.

Jim Spaulding W0UO accepted an appointment as Local Government Liaison for the North Texas Section of ARRL.



ARCPC HOSPITALITY

September 11, 2007 Meeting

Giant Submarine Sandwich, cookies,
and soft drinks



Judy
KB5JEY

= NOTICE =

**The next club meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, Tuesday September 11, 2007
at the Weatherford Community Center, 701 Narrow Street, Weatherford, TX
Talk-in 147.04 and Tone 110.9 (alternate 146.90 and Tone 110.9)**

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
LICENSE CLASS: (E)(A)(G)(T)(N) ARRL MEMBER: (YES) (NO) STATUS: (NEW) (RENEWAL)
(CIRCLE APPLICABLE ANSWERS ON ABOVE LINE)
ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP (plus 4): _____
PHONE: HOME: _____ WORK: _____

INITIATION FEE: One time initiation fee per family - \$5.00

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00. HAM FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 (+ 1 same household or full time college student) (Add an additional \$5.00 if you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter).

HAM FAMILY MEMBER NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

Cut out and mail this application to the ARCPC Secretary/Treasurer along with you check or money order for the amount due. Or, bring it to the next regular club meeting.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JUNE

W5PC

**FIRST CLASS
MAIL**

**AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF PARKER COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1795
WEATHERFORD, TX 76086**



www.qsl.net/w5pc