



**HCARC MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 6, 2008**

The Hill Country Amateur Radio Club met on March 6, 2008 at the Hill Country Chapter Red Cross in Kerrville, TX at 1900 hours. President, Marilyn Vordenbaum, KE5DDR, called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, Club members, Dave Gipson, KJ4MR, Ron Drumheller, K3NXF, Curtis Eastwood, AD5UZ, Alex Dula, KE5PWJ and Fred Gilmore, W0LPD, were recognized and each presented a 50/50 ticket for making club oriented achievements during the month...

President Vordenbaum then asked that all members and visitors spend a moment saying hello and getting acquainted with the person sitting beside them.. There were 30 people in attendance.

Don Joseph, K5DEJ, presented members of the club with a brief introduction to his background and gave an interesting and informative program on the Mars "Military Affiliate Radio Service" Program. He gave a slide show presentation and had a question and answer session following the program...He invited any members of the club that were interested to apply to become members and stated that he was available to answer any questions.

Following the program, President Vordenbaum, KE5DDR, invited members take a break for refreshments furnished by the entertainment committee, Diana Nelson, K5DBN and Ruby Jones, KB0YIM.

Calling the meeting back to order, President Marilyn Vordenbaum, KE5DDR asked if there were any changes to the minutes as written, submitted and published in the Static Newsletter by Secretary, Ruth Guida N5RJM, the minutes were approved as written and published.

Treasurer, Harvey Vordenbaum, K5HV, gave the following Treasurer's Report:

HCARC  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
March 6, 2008

2/1/2008	Beginning Balance	\$1833.35
	Deposits	
2/1/2008	Dues	\$272.00
2/23/2008		
2/8/2008	Transfer Cash	<u>\$54.50</u>
	TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$326.50

Withdrawals		
2/21/2008	Draft - Windstream	\$27.14
2/7/2008	Check #1002      Donation, Red Cross	<u>\$50.00</u>
	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	\$77.14
ENDING BALANCE February 29, 2008		\$2082.71
	Charles Phares Memorial Fund	\$978.14
	General Fund	<u>\$1104.57</u>
	Total Memorial Fund and General Fund	\$2082.71

Under OLD BUSINESS the following items were discussed:  
The importance of getting the dues paid in a timely manner since we have a 3 month time frame to join and be included in the membership roster and mentioned that the time is fast approaching.

Members were reminded of the dates, times and location for Club Breakfasts and the Monthly Club Luncheon.

Club Webmaster, Ron Drumheller, K3NXF gave a report on the Club Website, KerrHams.Org and suggested that the website has lots of good information including a new banner that will take members straight to HamCom site for all the information regarding that event and that we will be receiving a \$25 Gratuity just for having the banner on the website.

Static Editor, Fred Gilmore, W0LPD, asked for information and timely articles for publication in the club Newsletter, The Static. He mentioned that no one had guessed unidentified "Who Is This" member pictured in the Static.

Bill Tynan, W3XO discussed with members, the Constitutional Amendment written by the Committee, to allow the Treasurer to maintain the Club Roster instead of the Secretary as it stands now. Discussion was held on the amendment and member Bill Morgan, KA50NN, made a motion that the amendment be amended to say the "Treasurer or any other Officer of the Club" the motion was dismissed without a second and a motion was made, seconded and approved by the membership to add the original amendment to the constitution.

Ron Drumheller, K3NXF, gave an update on Field Day and stated that the Tierra Linda Board had approved the use of the barn on the Ranch with the stipulation that it was not advertised in the newspapers...A motion was made, seconded and approved that Dan Estes by appointed to be the Field Day Coordinator. He mentioned that it would be organized very much like last years event and that they will be asking for volunteers to help in the different field day groups.

It was announced that the SkyWarn program is scheduled for March 8, from 7:00 AM to 12:00 At the Inn of the Hills.

Under NEW BUSINESS discussion was held on the following items:

Volunteers were requested to help the two youngest club members, Samuel and Zachary Sharpe put up an antenna.

It was announced that Silent Key Troy Horton's widow is asking members assistance is getting rid of his equipment.

A motion was made, seconded and approved by club members that the old club computer would be donated to Hollis Walker, KE5JUU since it had been replaced and no longer being used by the club.

President Vordenbaum, KE5DDR, announced that the Throw Away committee had met to dispose of old club files and paperwork and one of the items that needed attention was approximately 4 dozen chairs that belonged to the club and were taking up storage space and no longer used. Discussion was held on donating the chairs to the Red Cross for their upcoming garage sale. Bill Morgan, KA50NN, made a motion that a dozen chairs be kept as club property to be used for club activities such as field day. The motion was seconded approved that all but 1 dozen chairs be given to the Red Cross for their sale and one dozen chairs be retained by the club.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

It was announced that the Red Cross needs assistance from our membership in the form of donations for their Garage Sale this spring and that there are cots that need repair, and members were asked to check them out and see if they could possibly help repair them.

President Vordenbaum, KE5DDR, announced that Curtis Eastwood, AD5UZ, had volunteered to be the Club's Emergency Operation Coordinator and presented him with a copy of the ARRL Handbook. He announced that he needed some assistance and he would like for another member to step up and take over the job of Club Publicity Chairman.

President Vordenbaum, KE5DDR, announced that the Hill Country Bicycle Touring Club has asked the club to participate in their upcoming LBJ 100th Anniversary as part of the communication network. Members who might be interested were counted and President Vordenbaum, KE5DDR, said that she would get full particulars about the ride and get back to the club at the April meeting with specifics.

Ron Drumheller, K3NXF, announced that Antennas will be the subject for the April meeting and that member Neil Kern, W9CNC will present the program.

The 50/50 donation drawing was won by Frank Douglas, N5CTE, and the donated amount of \$32.00 was split between the winner and the club. Frank donated \$14.00 back to the club..

Following the drawing the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Guida, N5RJM  
Secretary

#### **Presidents Column**

##### **A message from Marilyn.....**

MARS presentation by Don Josephs, K5DEJ to us and AAR6PC in the world of MARS

##### **Mighty Awesome Relevant Strategy...**

Not exactly the correct translation for MARS but it does fit our situation. The program for our March meeting by Don was all of the above....Mighty good delivery, Awesome information which is very Relevant and a system with a unique Strategy. Thank you so much Don! We look forward to seeing you at HamCom in the MARS booth.

#### **AND**

If you club members do not know about HamCom, please visit our website and get the latest information. The more visits we have to the site the better it is for our club. We will receive \$25.00 from the HamCom officials just for running their banner on our website. That deal is hard to beat. At the same time, give serious consideration to attending this well organized event. I volunteer each year and it is loads of fun plus I have learned many new things. The youth activities for this event are fun to observe.

#### **PLUS**

Be sure and check out the bike tour opportunities in the STATIC and come to the April meeting for a "tour" of the antenna world presented by Neil Kern.

#### **ALSO**

Be sure and pat yourself on the back if your attended the March meeting. There were 30 folks present which was great, especially for a "bad weather" evening. Hopefully we can beat that record in April. See you on April 3rd.  
**73,KE5DDR**

#### **Homebrew Challenge Winners Announced**

*The ARRL Letter 22 February 2008*

The Homebrew Challenge (HBC) was announced in the August 2006 issue of QST and on the ARRL Web site. Entrants were encouraged to submit a home-constructed voice and CW, 5 W minimum output radio by August 1, 2007. The radio had to be reproducible from no more than \$50 of new parts.

In October of 2006, by popular demand, HBC organizers at ARRL offered a second category to the competition that allowed a PC to be used as part of the control, display or processing function; it could also be used to program a microprocessor.

QST Technical Editor Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, found four entries that passed the documentation and price confirmation check. These entries also went through an ARRL Laboratory evaluation to make sure that they met all the ARRL and FCC technical requirements before being subjected to a thorough operational evaluation by ARRL staffers.

The judges announced two winners in the HBC, one in each category. The PC-supported winner was Jim Veatch, WA2EUI, who gathered the most points in the evaluation by our judges; an article describing his radio will appear in the May 2008 issue of QST. In a way, Hallas said, Veatch's radio could be considered a contender for the other award as well, since he has agreed to provide his firmware onto builders' processors at no cost if they don't have programming capabilities.

The winner with a radio totally without use of a PC is Steve Weber, KD1JV, who came in close behind in overall scoring by the judges. His radio will be described in a subsequent QST article.

In addition to these winners, entries were received from Dave Cripe, NM0S, and Doug Pongrance, N3ZI. Hallas said

the judging panel enjoyed exploring and operating each radio; each radio had its strong points and unique features, making selection difficult. The judges spent many hours operating, comparing and scoring the radios based on their technical proficiency, as well as operating features and reports from distant stations.

Hallas thanked the judges for contributing their time to this effort: W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI; Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, and QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B. Hallas also served as a judge. Almost all the judges have considerable experience operating low power (QRP) radios in contests and other venues. Hare has served as a judge for various QRP equipment contests sponsored by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRP/ARCI) and noted these entries stood well in comparison to many he has judged previously.

Hallas also thanked ARRL Lab Engineer Michael Tracy, KC1SX, for fitting in HBC testing between product review evaluations and his other responsibilities, as well as for helping set up the operational evaluation suite in the newly renovated W1HQ/W1INF Headquarters Operators Club shack.

*Ednote: It will be interesting to see these projects. Watch QST for them. Home brewing is a lot of fun. Remember a few years back we had a homebrew contest at HCARC. Everyone had time to build something during the year and had the club vote on the best project at the November meeting, and then trophies were given to the contestants at the Christmas party. Want to do something like that again? Email me your thoughts at [w01pd@kctc.com](mailto:w01pd@kctc.com).*

The **Straight Key Century Club** - a/k/a **SKCC** is the fastest growing group of straight key, morse code operators in the world. First organized in January of 2006 our membership has rapidly grown to include thousands of members from all corners of the globe.

Here's how it works:

- SKCC is open to any interested licensed radio amateur
- Membership is free
- SKCC numbers are issued for life. Once you get it, it's yours.
- Take care of it, and above all, USE it!
- To Request a SKCC Number, send an email with 'SKCC # Request' as the subject. Include: Your name, call, city and state and a brief description of why you're joining SKCC

Join the SKCC - FREE Membership [number@skccgroup.com](mailto:number@skccgroup.com)

## **My Life in RADIO**

**Joe Morgan W5PRV**

After reading the "radio life" of and by Bill Tynan, W3XO, I now also feel like an old guy like Bill. However, I was born much later than Bill, in September 1927 and it was also in Minnesota. A little town named Lake City. At about age 12 I rigged up a crystal set complete with the cat whisker and a hunk of antenna wire outside the woodhouse. I didn't realize that being about 100 miles away from the nearest broadcast

station was St. Paul-Minneapolis so I didn't receive anything but static when it occasionally rained. I was always busy reading radio articles in magazines and really wanted a radio to play with. My dad bought an a-c receiver from a radio shop for me to "play" with. I got a few shocks messing around inside that thing. Nothing like some shocks I received later in life.

About that time I experimented with electricity without reading much about its "shocking" realities. My first experiment was fixing an electric soldering iron. I cleaned all four wires neatly, then wrapped them together and put tape on them. My first mistake was plugging it into a socket and burning a fuse outside. So I took out the fuse and stuck a penny in there so Dad wouldn't realize what I had done in my experimenting- hi.

Luckily we had a fairly new Silvertone radio in the living room. I found the shortwave stations one day and curiously listened to the tones which I later learned was cw, mostly from commercial ship-shore cw stations which sent their call sign day and night on certain spots on the dial. They sounded like music after a while and the sound stayed in my head a long time until I finally learned what they were.

After awhile I learned the Morse code from a ham magazine and picked out call signs like WCC and KFS. Later I learned how to copy CW and began studying for a ham license. I don't remember at what age I got my first ham license when we moved to St. Paul, out near Como Park. I built a one-tube 6L6 transmitter and prepared to "talk to the world via cw. Later, I managed to dig up a few bucks to buy a brand new Hallicrafters S40 receiver. My first contact was some guy out on a prairie in Texas! Wow, real dx.

In high school I spent most of my time sleeping after working for the streetcar company as a conductor at night and on weekends. I stayed awake long enough to do some studying and glaring at the gals.

Chemistry class didn't interest me so I switched to Typing class where there was an abundance of gals. I increased my typing speed quickly and applied that to copying code on a rented typewriter at night. I was becoming rich so I also rented a phonograph. I bought records on 78 RPM, like the Three Suns' "Twilight Time" and others. Maybe it was my love of music that finally started to show at the time.

This might appear as a copy of the item last month in STATIC by Bill Tynan W3XO. At least our early lives compared somewhat until Bill progressed much quickly and further than my puny little brain. Good going, Bill. I recently learned from him that we both lived in the vicinity of Como Park in St. Paul. I think I was on the other side of the railroad track- hi. My sisters and I enjoyed the park and the flower garden is really a fine place to see. Too bad it gets a bit cool up there at times- like 20 below, for instance. Brrr. I'll stay here in Texas! I still had a good crystal set hooked up in my bedroom and listened to programs such as Kay Kaiser, Guy Lombardo etc.

Another accomplishment in the Twin Cities stay was earning a pilot license to fly small planes like Piper Cubs solo. My Private Pilot license was earned in Texas and I spent most of my hard-earned money working in broadcast stations renting Cubs to fly. My first twenty years after Navy service was in Texas radio stations until I heard about ship jobs opening.

After high school I did a year tour in Naval Reserve at NATTC Memphis, then after discharge I attended ready reserve units until I deactivated the one at Legion VA hospital due to poor attendance. Later I got lucky and landed my first job at sea with Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), which is now Military Sealift Command. I worked as radio electronics officer, and then went to union jobs with better pay and jobs, retiring after nearly twenty years.

Almost all of my jobs as Radio Officer and Chief Radio Officer were on union ships with Navy contracts to deliver supplies to such ports as Viet Nam and Persian Gulf. Going ashore in some Nam ports was interesting, especially when riding the bumpy roads with the “cowboys”- young bike “taxi” drivers.

Delivering goods to Persian Gulf ports was rather dull except for our stay near Dammam, at the dock loaded with explosives and other military cargo. It was about the time the flyboys were entertaining Saddam Insane. A scud came too close to the ship behind us so we were ordered to scam to anchorage off Italy. Now that was a pleasant change as long as we had boat service ashore. We were required to wear the full protective gear during some alerts in various ports. One day the ship Captain caught me in the radio shack smoking with my gas mask off. I managed to talk my way out of a few scrapes back in those good old days- hi.

One of the commercial CW stations we had to use was quite distant, near San Francisco. It was either KPH or KFS. Our STATIC editor Fred Gilmore WOLPD formerly worked as CW op at a west coast shore station. I might have swapped commercial messages with Fred via CW from places like Gung Ho, Viet Nam and didn't realize it at the time.

One other accomplishment needs mention. While I was chasing around on the big boats, my little brother Jack was playing with my S40 receiver and learning all about radio stuff. He got his ham license at an early age and became very active on the bands, mostly on CW. Jack still operates almost daily on CW from his home in Arizona although the bands are a bit weak during low sunspot activity.

So that's my little old life up until now, still hamming occasionally on CW and taking it easy with my two little hound-dog terrier pups and pounding on computer keys. I did have a manuscript-type book published while going to sea. It was titled “The Merchant marine Radio Officer's Handbook”. A long title for a short book. But it sold a few copies at \$50 each. I included some maybe-useful BASICA programs applicable to ship radio officer's duties. My next effort was a real book titled “Dreams”, on the order of Stephen King stuff. It sold a few copies before the publisher went bankrupt and I lost all chances for more book sales. No real accomplishments such as Bill Tynan's. I remember reading the QST article “World Above 50 Mc.” by Bill way back there.

I attended meetings of the Kerrville Writer's Association along with Bill Tynan and others straining for attaining. Our goals are to be published, and some of us were. It involves a lot of work and a lot of research and study but has its rewards... sometime, somewhere. Never stop writing.

**ALSO, NEVER STOP HAMMING IT UP!**

*Ednote: Joe and I could very well have been passing traffic without knowing each other. You know looking back at those times the world was a lot different. On the cw radio*

*watches I stood, we handled scores of traffic for ships at sea, mostly position reports (AMVER messages), weather and medical emergency traffic, as well as a few SOS situations.*

## “SPAR”

The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio is a non-partisan group of concerned amateur radio operators working together to ensure the vitality of the Amateur Radio Service by encouraging technical advancement and preserving long standing traditions.

Membership in SPAR is open to all interested amateurs who agree with the Statement of Principles, regardless of nationality or license class. For the complete Statement of Principles, the SPAR Charter and additional information, please see the SPAR web site at [www.spar-hams.org](http://www.spar-hams.org). To join SPAR, simply go to the web site, choose the Forum link and register using your call sign as your user name. SPAR invites all members to contribute articles for publication in The Roundtable. Comments on this newsletter should be sent via email to [roundtable@spar-hams.org](mailto:roundtable@spar-hams.org).

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**And the editorial this month from SPAR seems to hit the nail on the head. Thanks to T.O.M. – ed.**

## Rotten Attitudes

Tired Old Man

Musings on the state of amateur radio

Well it happened. Yours truly having completed reading this month's QST from cover to cover embarked upon a brief walk to the corner newsstand and purchased the highly entertaining amateur publication called CQ. The editorial submission did an aces job of calling the Olde Radio League down for their high handed actions regarding our international band plan. It seems that after the present dictatorship in power at the Radio League had their hat handed to them and shown the door regarding their bandwidth regulation petition, someone undoubtedly under the influence of who-hit-john traveled to the international body for the purpose of getting the unfavored bandwidth idea added to our regional band plan. The CQ Editor was calling the League on the carpet for continuing action clearly not supported by the membership. The points made by CQ Magazine were spot on.

Years ago I was employed by a fellow named Albrecht. Albrecht was an ok sort of chap, save his one problem where the sense of smell was concerned. He had none. I can recall Albrecht working on a transmitter turning his back on the job for a minute when the equipment's power transformer became overheated and began to bellow smoke. I had to race across the room and unplug the transmitter before the services of the fire brigade were needed. To make matters worse, Albrecht was very sensitive to his handicap and reacted badly to situations where it was called to his attention. Most alarmingly, there was a nice young lady in our clerical department who enjoyed the use of a very expensive and uniquely scented perfume. Although Albrecht and the young lady departed for lunch separately and returned at different times, there was no doubt as to the probability of close contact

between them during the break when Albrecht returned with the sweet smell of the lady's perfume on his person. Of course he could not smell it. Thus with Albrecht came a moral dilemma. Should we let him know about his newly acquired fragrance and in so doing risk his wrath, or simply not get involved, leaving his wife to discover his secret. In this case, we agreed to simply allow the chips to fall where they may, and lived to regret the decision. After the ensuing divorce proceedings, our business could no longer manage to stay afloat and we were all discharged.

It seems to your author that many amateurs have no sense of smell regarding some activities on the airwaves these days and many new amateurs are quite angry about their shortcomings. Yours truly, when trying to offer a little fatherly advice to an errant newcomer, has been told many times that my observations were not welcomed! Yet without some recognition of our state of affairs, our beloved amateur radio may not last. With rotten attitudes in our midst, we must not let the chips fall as was done with poor Albrecht. We must face each abomination and call it for what it is.

**The real renegades are the groups that try to change amateur radio into something that it is not.**

Not long ago, my pet cat was accidentally closed in a garbage pail in the back yard of my residence. It was a good 24 hours before I was required to dispose of the rubbish from inside the house and when I opened the can, the hapless animal shot out of the bin like a Chinese rocket. Likewise many hapless amateurs have been trapped for years in the self imposed container of not being able to pass the telegraphy test. When the test was removed, many have shot out of the Technician Class license like my poor feline friend onto the streets of HF and no amount of tender care could console the perceived indignation even though both apparently crawled into their own predicament by virtue of free will. In truth, my cat was mad at everyone but himself and with a brain the size of a small tomato, one could not blame HIM. New Amateur upgrades do not have the same excuse.

At a time when we need fair leadership and education from our Radio league, they are off on the personal business of trying to force a band plan down our throats we do not want. They should be leading the new HF participants down the straight and narrow, a path many seem reluctant to find on their own. More importantly, if anyone sees my poor cat, please tell him I'm not mad at him and that his litterbox is clean.

***Ednote: Although there are a few things I don't like about the ARRL, it is the only organization, which has the money and clout to protect what we do have as ham radio operators. There are a lot of industries out there that would love to take over all the ham radio frequencies for their own commercial use. I still recommend everyone join the ARRL, and make your opinions known to them. The only way to do this is to join and vote in the elections, just like we do for our government. (You do vote, don't you!)***

### **Amateur Radio Set New World Record 13 Million Miles per Watt:**

Bill Tippett, W4ZV, of New London, NC correctly copied code word OMAHA from the N2XE beacon

transmitting with a peak carrier power of .0000406 watts at 3.5455 MHz on the 80 meter Amateur Radio band. Bill confirmed reception of the beacon at 2328Z, January 2, 2005. The precise distance between the two stations is 546.8 miles, establishing Bill's record reception distance at 13,467,980 miles per watt. Tippett used a Ten Tec Orion Transceiver with a 1000 foot Beverage antenna (named after Dr. Harold Beverage who invented it in the 1920s).

***Ednote: Their has been some controversy over this claim. However one must note this is a reception report, not a QSO. Try QRP, you'll most likely enjoy it. QRP is generally defined as using a maximum of 5 watts. QRPP is a maximum of only 1 watt. Don't know CW, try it with PSK31, the next best thing for QRP.***

### **EmComm Notes de AD5UZ**

If you have looked at the study material for a ham license lately, you will notice that there are questions relating to the five principle purposes for Amateur Radio.

- a. Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- b. Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- c. Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- d. Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- e. Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

It is not an accident that the first item deals with Emergency Communications. We have a unique ability by virtue of frequency agility and technical expertise to get the message through under just about any conditions without the need for complicated and delicate infrastructure.

If Amateur Radio is to continue to exist we must meet the challenge of these mandates. In the interest of addressing the emergency communications requirement, I have accepted the task (after being subjected to the KE5DDR arm wind-up) of formalizing the Hill Country Amateur Radio Club's Emergency Communications Program. As I am not particularly experienced or qualified in this area I ask you for your assistance.

If you feel that you have something to contribute I would be honored if you would serve on the EmComm Committee. The kind of people we need are, well, HAMS! If you have any experience in ARES, RACES, MARS, SkyWarn, REACT, CERT, NTS, Red Cross, Salvation Army or a VFD your expertise would be more than welcome. If, like me, you are just a ham who would like to contribute, welcome aboard. We need you too.

## Texas Hosts USA's ARDF Championships

By Joe Moell, K0OV

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator

Contributing Editor

March 05, 2008

Bastrop State Park in Central Texas will be the site for this year's USA championship of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting. Fans of this international sport -- also called foxtailing, radio-orienteeing and Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) -- are making travel plans now. They want you to join in.

Interest and participation in ARDF has been growing every year since stateside hams first competed at the World Championships in 1998. Beginning in 2001, we have held annual national championships to see who is best at the sport and to select our team members for the World Championships. The Texas ARDF group and the Houston Orienteering Club are combining to host this year's events to be held the second weekend of May.

Thursday, May 8 is scheduled for arrival and equipment testing; 2 and 80 meter transmitters will also be on the air near the event headquarters. There will also be a get-acquainted meeting and drawing for the starting order. The 2 meter contest will take place Friday morning. Competitors will start in small groups made up of different age and gender categories, in the drawn order.

The 80 meter event will be early Saturday morning with starts in reverse order, highest numbers first. After everyone returns from the woods and the results are tallied, medals will be presented for first, second and third place in each category. There will be ample time for everyone to return home in time for Mother's Day activities.

On both bands, each of the five foxes transmits for 60 seconds at a time in numbered order on one frequency, and then the cycle repeats. Fox #1 continuously sends "MOE" in Morse code, then #2 sends "MOI," #3 sends "MOS" and so forth. Knowledge of Morse code isn't necessary, because the number of dits reveals which fox is on. Find your required foxes in any order and then head for the finish, following your map or the continuous beacon transmitter on a second frequency.

Organizing co-chairs for the 2008 USA Championships are Kenneth Harker, WM5R and Jennifer Harker, W5JEN. Both have competed at four USA Championships and have won medals on both bands at the 2007 combined USA and IARU Region 2 Championships near Lake Tahoe. The Harkers organized the first Texas ARDF Championships in October 2005.

### Finding Foxes in the Lost Pines

With rolling terrain and woods full of loblolly pines, Bastrop State Park is an ideal orienteeing venue. Locals call these trees the Lost Pines, because they are over 150 miles from the large forests of East Texas. Deer, raccoon and armadillo make their homes there, as well as more than 250 bird species.

ARDF competitors navigate through the forest from the starting corridor to the finish line, a distance of 4-10 kilometers. They plot their field bearings on orienteeing maps showing terrain features and elevation contours. Color codes indicate vegetation density and ease of running. The Bastrop

course sites are now off limits to anyone who will be competing, ensuring fairness for all.

If you plan to travel to the championships by plane, you will get closest by landing at the new Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (IATA code AUS). It is 25 miles from the park and provides non-stop service from 46 airports around the country. A variety of lodging options are available in the area, as well as overnight camping. You must find your own transportation between the airport, your lodging and the park. You can probably arrange to carpool if you coordinate with other attendees ahead of time.

Competitors are responsible for bringing their own direction-finding sets. Extra gear might be available for loan from other attendees, but inquire ahead of time. Receivers must not radiate signals that can be heard by others. Transmitting on the course is forbidden, except in emergencies.

### Y'all Come!

As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone of any age who can safely navigate the woods. A ham radio license is not required, so encourage your unlicensed-but-athletic friends and family members to join in. Each person competes as an individual; there is no teaming or person-to-person assistance allowed on the courses. Using GPS as a navigation aid is also forbidden.

Our annual ARDF championships are an ideal opportunity to watch and learn from the best radio-orienteeers in the country, as well as visitors from around the world. Previous USA championships have drawn experts from Australia, China, the Czech Republic, England, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Registration for the 2008 USA championships is now open. A \$70-per-person package includes the practice session, both competitions, Friday dinner and a T-shirt. Check out the Texas ARDF Web site for detailed schedules, frequencies, lodging information and registration forms. An e-mail reflector is available for Q&A, as well as for coordinating transportation and arranging equipment loans.

If you have never participated in an international-style transmitter hunt, you will find all the basics at my Web site -- Homing In -- including the rules and signal parameters. You will get equipment ideas for 2 meters and 80 meters. You can also determine your own age category. The pages of photos from our previous championships will help you decide what gear to carry (the lighter, the better) and what to wear.

### On to Korea

ARDF Team USA will travel to South Korea for the 14th World Championships of ARDF from September 2 through 7. Team positions will be offered to best performers in each age and gender category at Bastrop in May, and at Lake Tahoe last September. A maximum of three persons per category may be on a nation's team.

This is the first time that the Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL) has hosted the World championships. It is only the second time that the ARDF World Championships have taken place outside Europe. KARL has selected forested sites in the Gyeonggi province, about 30 miles from Seoul. Participants will be housed and fed in a nearby resort hotel.

An individual entry fee of US \$400 covers double-occupancy room and board for the entire World Championships competition period, plus a sightseeing day and

souvenirs. Team USA's competitors and spectators are responsible for this fee plus their own transportation to and from Seoul.

As ARRL's ARDF Coordinator, I will submit USA's roster of travelers to the Korean organizers this summer. If you wish to represent our country at the ARDF World Championships and cannot attend the USA Championships in Texas, please contact me via e-mail to discuss your interest and qualifications.

I hope to see you at the USA Championships in Bastrop Park



### **Who was this?**

Last months photo was John, K5XA. The only correct guess we had was from Harriett Kern, XYL of Neal, W9CNC for the second month in a row. No one sent any photographs, so the column is canceled for lack of interest.

### **CLEAR EXPLANATION OF TAX CUTS**

David R. Kamerschen, PhD  
Professor of Economics  
University of Georgia

Sometimes politicians, journalists and others exclaim; "It's just a tax cut for the rich!" and it is just accepted to be fact, without questioning it. But what does that really mean? Just in case you are not completely clear and/or do not understand this issue, the following should help, if you are a reasonable person. Let's put tax cuts in terms everyone can understand.

Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to \$100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this:

- \* "The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing.
- \* "The fifth would pay \$1...
- \* "The sixth would pay \$3...
- \* "The seventh would pay \$7.
- \* "The eighth would pay \$12.
- \* "The ninth would pay \$18.
- \* "The tenth man (the richest) would pay \$59.

So, that's what they decided to do. The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve.

"Since you are all such good customers," he said, "I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20. Drinks for the ten of you now cost just \$80. "

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes so the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free. But what about the other six men - the paying customers? How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his 'fair share'?

They realized that \$20 divided by six is \$3.33. But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would each end up being paid to drink his beer.

So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same amount, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay.

.....And so:

- \* "The fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% savings).
- \* "The sixth now paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33% savings).
- \* "The seventh now pay \$5 instead of \$7 (28% savings).
- \* "The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% savings).
- \* "The ninth now paid \$15 instead of \$18 (16% savings).
- \* "The tenth now paid \$49 instead of \$59 (16% savings).

Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free. But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings.

"I only got a dollar out of the \$20," declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man," but he got \$10!"

"Yeah, that's right," exclaimed the fifth man. "I only saved a dollar, too.

It's unfair that he got ten times more than I!"

"That's true!!" shouted the seventh man. "Why should he get \$10 back when I got only two? The wealthy get all the breaks!"

"Wait a minute," yelled the first four men in unison. "We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!"

The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next night the tenth man didn't show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had beers without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn't have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill!

And that, boys and girls, journalists and college professors, is how our tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking somewhere else where the atmosphere is friendlier.

### **VOTE CAREFULLY THIS YEAR!**

#### **Bicycle Tour**

##### **Bicycle Tour opportunity**

Here is an opportunity for the Club to get out and do a little public service. Saturday, April 19 as part of the LBJ Centennial Celebration at the LBJ NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK there is an LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour. See their web-site,

<http://www.lbj100bicycletour.org/>

We have been asked to support this event, since cell-phone coverage is marginal at best in this area. There are routes of 31, 45, and 62 miles starting and finishing at the North end of the runway in the LBJ Park. See the attached map. There are three rest stops. We should be able to support the rest stops and the start/finish line. They will have 3 SAG vehicles and 3 mobile bike repair vehicles. It would be nice if we can supply these vehicles with mobile radios and operators. Radios and antennas can be made available. Repeater coverage would be on the Fredericksburg 147.04/147.64 machine. It has a tone access of 162.2 Hz. An alternate repeater for the Eastern half of the route could be on the Henley 146.92/146.32 machine. It also uses a 162.2 tone access.

(From Nolan Kuehn, event director)

The event will begin/end at the north end of the air strip on the LBJ Ranch. To gain access to that site on the day of the

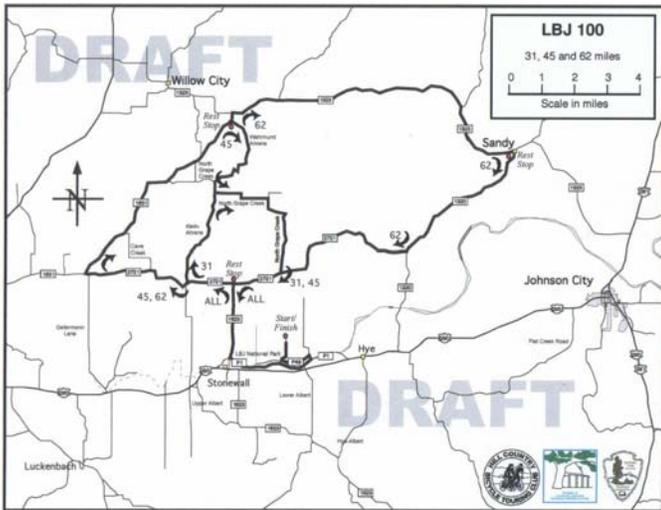
ride, exit onto RR1 off of Hwy 290, and cross over the Pedernales River on Park Rd. 49. Turn left immediately, and continue on Park Rd. 49, until Park Rangers direct you onto Bailey Rd. This narrow, one-lane road will get you to the more Southern end of the air strip. Drive up the air strip and park on either side (on the tarmac). The tent, start line, etc. will be at the north end.

I have been interfacing with Lt. Jim Judd of the Gillespie Sheriff's Dept.(ph. 830-997-7585). Most of the routes are in Gillespie County, the exception being the east end of the 62-mile route in Blanco County. He plans to have 2 deputies working the event, with one meeting the riders at the beginning, just as they come out of the Ranch on Park Rd. 49, and turning rt. onto Ranch Road 1. From there, the deputy will precede the riders to RM 1623, turning rt., and then leading them to RM 2721, the site of the first rest stop. From there, the riders are on their own, but the deputies will be present on the routes throughout the event.

Chief Deputy Joe Johnson and Captain Steve Frederick are my contacts in Blanco County. (ph. 830-868-9308).

For info regarding EMS service, please contact Chief Ranger Gus Sanchez of the National Park Service. (ph. 830-868-7128, ext. 235).

*Thanks so much for helping ensure that services are provided that will make this a memorable, fun and safe ride for all participants. So, people, let me know if you can help us out. Please contact me by phone (896-2894), e-mail (tower2@stx.rr.com), repeater, etc. Harvey,*



**\*TRANS-ATLANTIC BALLOON FLIGHT\***

The trans-Atlantic balloon flight of the *Spirit of Knoxville IV* was set to launch March 11 at 0200 UTC (10 PM EDT March 10). The balloon, designed to stay aloft for more than 24 hours, will be inserted into the current jet stream at normal flight altitudes of 30,000-40,000 feet. This will take the balloon into Europe over the UK and France at around 40 hours into the flight if all goes well. Using radio frequencies, the balloon transmits data detailing its current location, distance traveled, speed, height and health of the balloon. The balloon's payload

consists of hand-made computers and radios along with a GPS and self-authored software. The onboard computer gathers information from the GPS like altitude, speed and temperature; the computer then determines whether it needs to drop weight to maintain its altitude and sends this information, via Amateur Radio frequencies, to volunteers around the globe. [Track the mission](#) live (the live status page will only become active at launch). Flight radio details will be available on the Distributed Tracking and Relay Client ([DTRC](#)) status page that opens when you run the current version of DTRC. This software is designed to allow you to track long duration Amateur Radio balloon flights. You will become a remote RTTY telemetry receiver for balloon flights, connecting your radio to UTARC through the Internet. The DTRC is a RTTY decoder program that automatically forwards received data to UTARC. You can [download](#) DTRC free from the DTRC Web page.

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