

HOUSTON ECHO SOCIETY

Newsletter - February 2005

next meeting - Monday, March 14

topic/speaker - "Winlink" - by Wayne Barker, AD8A



Club call: W5ECO

Web site: w5eco.org

Repeaters: 147.08 147.32 224.26 444.40

General meeting location:

American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098

Mailing Address:

Houston ECHO Society, PO Box 270540, Houston, TX, 77277

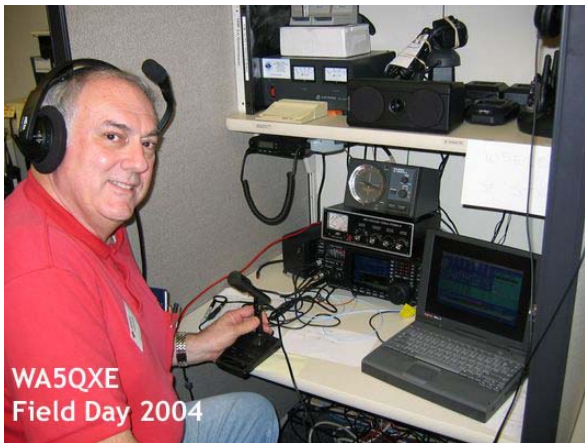
Wayne Barker, AD8A to talk about Winlink at ECHO meeting

The next Houston ECHO Society meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14 at the American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway - in the Disaster Communications Building. The guest speaker will be Wayne Barker, AD8A, who will make a presentation on Winlink. Barker is the Emergency Coordinator for the Southwest Harris County ARES. Winlink utilizes enabling technologies and sound operating practices to provide a full-featured radio digital message transfer system, worldwide. Email transfer with attachments, map and text-based position reporting, graphic and text-based weather bulletin services and emergency communications are available to the Amateur radio community by linking radio to the Internet. For more information about Winlink, see <http://winlink.org/>.

ECHO has new meeting night

The Houston ECHO Society has a new meeting night - 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Members had to decide on a new night because the American Red Cross is no longer open on Friday evenings. Members discussed several alternatives and voted for the second Monday of the month. In addition, meetings will now be held in the Red Cross Disaster Services building - it is behind the main building of the Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway. The meeting room is just down the hallway from the E. J. Hadash Memorial Radio Room, so that provides the Houston ECHO Society access to amateur radio equipment and emergency communications training as well. One note: you may need a security guard to escort you to the back building - security is a concern - but the guards are acquainted with ECHO, so that should not be a problem. Someone is usually monitoring 147.08 in the radio room, so call on the repeater if you need help or directions. --- Several of us usually get together before the meeting for dinner at the Goode Company Mexican Restaurant, corner of Kirby and Westpark. We monitor 147.08 to provide talk-in to Goode Company.

Mark your calendar - June 25-26 for ARRL Field Day



ECHO plans to operate Field Day from the E.J. Hadash Memorial Radio Room at the Red Cross again in 2005. Last year, the Houston ECHO Society had its best finish ever, coming in second in the Class 3F category (3=3 HF stations and F=emergency operations center station). Field Day is June 25-26, 2005. ECHO's operations will start around 11 a.m. on June 25 and the on-air competition begins at 1 p.m. On-air competition continues through Sunday at 1 p.m. This year ECHO hopes to have better success through the use of band pass filters. That way more stations can operate at the same time with less interference. This year, we are hoping to get operators to sign up for shifts, so we don't get overloaded at the start and not have anyone during the night.

(continued on next page)

Field Day, continued.....

If you do choose to operate at night, you should have lots of time to do so.

Mark Tyler, K5GQ and Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE are building band-pass filters. That should be a challenging but very worthwhile project. Along with ECHO webmaster Mike Urich, KA5CVH and ECHO president Marty Blaise, AG5T, they will be updating the w5eco.org web site with more information about Field Day. In the meantime, we hope you'll consider joining us. There will be sign-up sheets at the upcoming ECHO meetings.

ECHO will operate single sideband (voice), cw (Morse code), psk31 (a digital mode) and possibly RTTY. Most of the equipment needed for Field Day is available, but we can definitely use more laptop computers for logging and for psk31.

There are lots of opportunities for bonus points at Field Day and they are a good way to get many radio club members involved. Some of the bonuses are sending radiograms, notifying the media, having a public information table and much more. Getting excited? Stay tuned and come to the next meeting for more information about Field Day 2005.

Oh and lest we forget, we enjoyed a giant, no, humongous bag of bagels throughout Field Day last year (thanks Paul!).



AG5T and AD5OS at Field Day 2003



Field Day 2001 - Boy Scouts helped

ECHO Field Day 2005 - investigating ways to reduce interference

By Mark Tyler, K5GQ

We thank K5GQ, KU5B, AG5T, AD5OS, WA5QXE, W5OFT, KK5NU and N8NOV each for their contributions in achieving second place in Class 3F during ARRL Field Day 2004. It was the highest ECHO had ever placed in Field Day results for any classification the society entered.

This June, we plan to operate two HF rigs. The major problem last year was interference from the other station(s). In some cases it was 10 over S9 interference on the 40 meter rig when a 20 meter station was operating. Two methods of reduction of interference will be investigated. One will use **external filters** for each rig. The other involves the uses of detemining the **null** offered by the antenna pattern.

To solve the problem of several operators wanting to operate at the same time and lack of operators during the late hours, two hours time slots will be used during the first six hours. The number of valid entries per hour you believe you can make using a computer logging program will be used to qualify you during prime time. We will announce when to submit your time(s) and Q rate later.

Marty did a wonderful job of guiding us to get those bonus points. Marty would you commit to requesting volunteers to work those bonus points? (AG5T responds: I'll do the best I can to recruit those experts.)

The goal is to **not to TYPE in contacts from PENCIL logs in '05!** In addition it is hoped TR can be loaded on one of the computers. A interface cable needs to be built for CW. TR logging software was used to log CW and SSB last year. It was not designed to work the digital mode. Brian, AD5OS worked the digital mode and is reviewing the Digipan software.

ARRL announces new rules in Field Day 2005

From the ARRL Letter Vol. 24, No. 05 February 4, 2005

Those planning to participate in this year's Field Day will need to bone up in advance on a few changes in the rules for the ever-popular operating event. Field Day this year takes place June 25-26. The 2261 Field Day entries for 2004 were the most ever. While similar in format to a contest, Field Day is primarily a means to exercise and demonstrate Amateur Radio's emergency operating capabilities while having fun at the same time.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that among other things rule changes for 2005 expand eligibility for bonus points.

"All groups will be eligible for some kind of bonus points," Henderson said. "Make sure you carefully read Field Day Rule 7.3." That rule spells out how to qualify for such bonus points as 100 percent emergency power, media publicity, message handling, making satellite contacts, using an alternative power source and copying the W1AW bulletin, among other things. Many bonus point categories are available to all entry classes.

Henderson notes that some large clubs often compete among themselves to see who can claim the highest number of transmitters. Under the revised rules, all transmitters must be on the air with an operator to count toward a club's entry class. "You have to actually have individual people and sufficient equipment capable of operating simultaneously," Henderson emphasized, referencing Rule 4. "The key word there is 'simultaneously.'"

The Field Day exchange consists of the number of transmitters on the air followed by the participation category (A through F). Operators would send "3A," for example, for a club or non-club portable setup with three transmitters on the air at the same time. Rule 4 also specifically prohibits switching and simulcasting devices.

The 2005 Field Day rules also modify the number of transmitters eligible for bonus points that a group can claim for its operating class. "You can only claim the emergency power bonus points for up to 20 transmitters," Henderson explains. "That's a maximum of 2000 emergency power bonus points." There no limit on the number of transmitters eligible participants may have on the air, however. Field Day rules already generally prohibit the use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode. In addition, Field Day 2005 will introduce a new "Youth Element" bonus category (Rule 7.3.15). Clubs or groups operating in Class A, C, D, E or F now can claim 20 bonus points--up to a maximum of 100--

for each person aged 18 or younger, who completes a valid Field Day contact. Single-operator Class B stations can earn a 20-point bonus if the operator is age 18 or younger. Two-person Class B setups can claim a 20-point bonus for each operator age 18 or younger, for a maximum of 40 points. The maximum number of participants for Class B entries remains at two.

Another rule change clarifies that Get On The Air (GOTA) stations--instituted a few years ago to encourage new or comparatively inexperienced operators to gain operating practice--use the same exchange as the "parent" station. The maximum transmitter output power for GOTA stations is 150 W, and GOTA stations may only operate on the Field Day HF bands.

Free transmitters do not count toward a group's total, and GOTA stations and free VHF stations for Class A entries do not qualify for bonus point credits. Henderson encourages Field Day participants to submit their Field Day summaries electronically using the Web applet form <http://www.b4h.net/cabforms>. "You may input your summary information at that site for a 50-point bonus," Henderson points out.

The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH, comprised of former operators of the KPH commercial shore station, now an historic site, again will augment W1AW Field Day CW and RTTY bulletin transmissions for West Coast participants. The complete 2005 Field Day packet now is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/05-fd-packet.pdf>.

Articles, photos needed

Want to write a review about the ht you just purchased? Did you operate as a rover in a VHF contest? Build a dipole for an attic? Install new contesting software? Here's your chance to tell us all about it. E-mail your articles and digital photographs to ag5t@arrl.net. You can also mail items to the post office box.



The Curmudgeon's Corner

By Mike Martin, K5LAW/G0JCZ

Now let's see... As I started to say eight years ago, I think we've had more proof that a repeater with some sort of coverage is the life blood of the club. Oh eight going down really put a damper on things. I would thank Lee and Paperman and everyone else who had a hand in bringing it back to life, but my personal ethics forbid such niceties.

Now then...let's populate the thing! Think of something to say. Welcome newcomers and invite them to talk about more than just whether or not you can hear them or they can hear you. What was that old contest line on radio back in the sixties? "Communication is the cornerstone of democracy!" So, let's communicate.

In other news....

I'll be in London February 23rd through the 27th. I've just renewed my British license, but wasn't going to take a radio with me, and then I realized just how small my new HT is, so I guess I'll take it. Probably won't find too many folks to talk to, as I'll be busy with other things during my short stay. But, if you want to see if I made it, go to this site, <http://www.earthcam.com/uk/england/london/> ... It's a webcam in front of the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden. I'll be there from 9 – 9:15 AM Central Standard Time on the morning of the 23rd (Wednesday). If I'm holding an HT in my hand, you'll know that I'll report on what I heard in the next Corner. Well, Marty said he wanted half a page, so this is all the news that fits. See you on the radio. And, remember, I'm no gentleman....

Michael P. Martin

Attorney and Counselor at Law

Post office rent paid

The Houston ECHO Society has paid to extend rent of a post office box at Wesleyan

Station, just south of Wesleyan at Westpark. The address is Houston ECHO Society, PO Box 270540, Houston, TX, 77277. Some of the items received via the post office box include membership renewal checks, fliers about hamfests and ham conventions, letters from the Red Cross, club qsl card requests and courtesy newsletters from other area amateur radio organizations. The post office box can be a great resource for ECHO – please think of other ways the club could use the box and mention it at a club meeting.



Congrats and best wishes!



The Houston ECHO Society congratulates Gary Raney, KM5TY, who graduated from the University of Texas in December with an electrical

engineering degree. Gary is pictured working 432 Mhz in a UHF contest. He did not have to wait long to find a job, as he now works for a firm in Boulder, Colorado. We'll try to have some words from him in our next newsletter. Right now he is pretty busy after moving from Texas (and also moving his family to Colorado – his dad is Gary, KD5GFX). KM5TY was our webmaster for several years and many thanks go to him for doing that job for ECHO. Best wishes and hope you join up with an amateur radio club in Boulder or maybe even in nearby Denver.

ECHO officer elections will be at March general meeting

Elections will be held at the March Houston ECHO Society meeting. The floor will be open for nominations and then members will vote for officers. If you are interested in running for one of the positions below, please tell one of the ECHO officers before the meeting starts.

Here are the positions you can run for:

President – runs ECHO meetings, coordinates, delegates, in charge

Vice President – runs meeting in president's absence, in charge of getting speakers and programs|

Recording Secretary – records notes at meetings and prepares minutes

Corresponding Secretary – submits club info to section manager, writes letters as necessary

Treasurer – pays bills, maintains bank statements, makes equipment purchases when necessary, keeps up with financials

Parliamentarian – is familiar with Robert's Rules of Order, makes sure proper voting procedures are following at meeting, assists other officers.

What is the 'focus' of ECHO?

By Marty Blaise, AG5T, ECHO President

A discussion was held at the last ECHO meeting on the focus, mission and direction of the Houston ECHO Society. Kent Marshall, W5TXV, mentioned that when ECHO was formed in 1974, one of main focuses of the group was having an open autopatch repeater. He also said that even though most everyone today has a cellular phone, ECHO still needs to have an open autopatch available in Houston. Marshall said another function of ECHO could be long range repeaters in the Houston area. However, this was something that could take time, but if the membership wished, it could be the main focus of ECHO. --- ECHO President Marty Blaise, AG5T, commented that other Houston area amateur radio clubs have at least one focus point – that of geography. For example, the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS) has many members who live in the northwest side of Harris County. Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) serves the Clear Lake area. Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) serves the Brazos Valley area on both sides of Brazos River. Lots of BVARC members live in southwest Harris County or in Fort Bend County.

Blaise said another type of an amateur radio club is one focusing on a specific part of ham radio. One example is the Texas DX Society, where members are interested in dxing, contesting and other things related to dx.

“ECHO is basically not a group of dxers, a group of members interested in homebrew radio projects or only hams interested in computers,” Blaise said at the meeting.

“ECHO is also not really a geographical area as members are from all over Houston as well as several counties. ECHO has members with a wide variety of ham radio interests, but it seems like the club needs a little better direction to unite everyone in some key areas,” he added.

Blaise said he wants to gather ideas and continue discussions about the focus and direction of ECHO. He has also compiled ideas from other amateur radio organizations' web sites.

If you have any suggestions on the direction/focus of ECHO, please bring them to an ECHO meeting, mail them to the post office box or e-mail them to ag5t@arrl.net. Help make the Houston ECHO Society a great organization!



KA5CVH's 'rover' VHF contesting setup

Dues are due (Dues is due?)

It is time again to pay ECHO membership dues (unless of course you have a life membership). Dues are \$20 per person and if you have a second family member that would like to join ECHO, you only pay an additional \$10 (example \$20 for you and \$10 for your spouse). Dues money goes towards phone call costs for the autopatch, repeater equipment repair, mailing costs, post office box rent and other costs necessary to keep the Houston ECHO Society going.

New member information packets project

One of the projects the Houston ECHO Society will be working on is new member information packets. In the past, when you joined ECHO, you received a membership card and an autopatch speed dial number.

In addition to these items, ECHO will try to put together a packet or folder of information for a new member. This could include the autopatch protocol, a membership roster and whatever else the membership feels would be information of interest.

This will be discussed at the March meeting, so put on your thinking caps!

December eatin' meetin'

Several members of ECHO got together at Wok Bo on Westheimer at the ECHO December eatin' meeting.' Everyone enjoyed the buffet supper and then exchanged gifts. Karen and Lee (WA5QXE)Gaspard, Warren and Kent (W5TXV) Marshall, Charles (Frosty, K5LBU) Frost and Susan and Marty (AG5T) Blaise were those who attended the event.

How to promote an amateur radio organization

Q: How do you attract people to an amateur radio club?

Here is what a group of ham radio representatives in the Central Division, Indiana Section suggested as some possible answers to this question. Read these and think about they could apply to ECHO.

- Create more club activities and include young people
- Make individual club handout pamphlets to increase public awareness of ham radio
- Have a goal and set plans to make Field Day more enjoyable
- Focus on member APPRECIATION, encourage hams more often, use AWARDS often
- Club resources, speakers at meetings, use older hams to be mentors and speakers on special interest topics, Other clubs might have some general interests, but focus most of their activities on fox hunting or amateur television or mostly helping with public service events (marathons, bike rides, etc.). interactive club participation with other surrounding clubs
- Reduce club meeting “debate factors” and have less business in your meetings, club executive board can resolve major issues and bring resolutions to general membership, focus on great meeting programs
- Cross-pollinate interest groups between surrounding clubs, share the interest in your group with other groups, have interactive club meetings with surrounding ham clubs
- Create a follow up procedure for your club, announce club web site and e-mail address on weekly nets
- Create new club projects, special event stations, challenge your members with new technology
- Use technology to help your club initiatives, focus on communication within your club
- Develop good mentor programs for young people. Encourage the older hams to share their expertise in all areas of ham radio like weather spotting and during career days
- Develop a scholarship project within your club.

E-mail vs postal mail

You are receiving this newsletter by e-mail. Do you prefer newsletters that way? Or do you think ECHO should go back to paper copies? BVARC mails its newsletters and the cost is about \$75 per month.

Other clubs use PDF files and e-mail to their members. Almost all of the Houston ECHO Society members have e-mail addresses. This was briefly discussed at January meeting and will be discussed at the March meeting.

Houston ECHO Society Mission Statement

ECHO is an amateur radio organization whose purpose is to provide emergency communications to the greater Houston area in times of disaster, emergency and other need. We support the American Red Cross in their aid activities and support the operations of RACES, ARES, Houston and Harris County Offices of Emergency Management, National Weather Service and other municipal agencies as needed. Additionally, ECHO provides public service to the community by leveraging various facets of amateur radio people and technical capabilities.

Dennis Hahn, KB5EEG and Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE, added this paragraph to the mission statement at the February 2001 Board of Directors meeting:

Because of the particular focus of the Houston ECHO Society, ECHO has the potential of becoming the center of Greater Houston Area Amateur Radio Club for “Radio-Active Ambassadors.” We can be the club that reaches out in a non-threatening manner and integrate the people and resources of the out-lying clubs and brings together the other clubs for emergency and public service needs. In essence, ECHO can aspire to be the UN of Houston area clubs.

Speakers and presentations needed for ECHO meetings

Speakers and presentations are needed for ECHO meetings. Ham radio related presentations are preferred.



Some of the presentations at meetings have included: Echolink ham radio by internet, slide shows from dxpeditions to other countries, demonstration of spectrum analyzer, discussion of how repeater systems work, introduction to amateur radio satellites and many other topics as well. If you have a

suggestion or have a speaker you can get, please contact one of the ECHO officers.

Highlighting ‘other’ hobbies - astronomy and telescopes

By Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT

Twenty years ago it was much harder to follow up on an interest in Astronomy. Telescopes were expensive and very hard to use. A very good knowledge of the sky was necessary, and heaven forbid if you were starting out in someplace like Houston, Dallas or another major city. Many manufacturers were producing cheap telescopes with poor optics and shaky mounts. Most were advertised on the basis of power. It did not matter if the power was usable or not, and it usually wasn't. This resulted in driving many interested individuals into some other hobby. The only thing that most folks saw was the moon, and it was very hard to keep the scope on the object with a shaky mount. The eyepieces were only three quarters of an inch in diameter, and the actual lens was about the size of a pencil. This was a formula for failure.



Then about twenty years ago, things began to change. A gentleman by the name of John Dobson invented a simple mount for telescope and formed the San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomer's club. This mount was the first major reduction in the cost of telescopes, but it had its limitations. You had to know where to point it. A few years later another amateur astronomer/mathematician took out a hand calculator and converted the equatorial coordinates to altitude and azimuth (direction), like those used on the Dobson mount, and we were off to the races. Today we have computers on simple effective telescopes that pretty well take all the guessing out of locating things in the sky. I am going to discuss three different types of telescopes starting with the most inexpensive. The most inexpensive telescope is the “reflector” which uses a large parabolic mirror for its objective.



It was the brainchild of Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727). The telescope always appears as if something is missing. The upper end of the tube is open and the focuser is located near the upper end. For all its awkward appearance this is a workhorse of a telescope. Apertures of 6, 8, and 10 inches can be acquired for \$300 to \$500 dollars.

Since the general rule is to buy as much aperture as you can afford, this telescope is very good for the beginner. This telescope is usually mounted on a “Dobson” base (shown above right) or an equatorial mount (above left). The Dobson base is the cheaper of the two but does require some knowledge of the sky. The telescope has to be “aimed” at the object of interest using a method known as “star hopping”. It takes time to learn but is very possible and rewarding even in places like New York City and Houston.

The next step up, in price and weight, is the reflector on an equatorial mount. This mount has setting circles that allow the operator to dial in the coordinates of the object after the scope is aligned. Add motor drives and a computer and you are all set. You are also up around \$1,000.00 for an 8 inch computer driven reflector. A 6 to 8 inch Dobsonian reflector is very light and easy to move. This telescope will allow you to see Jupiter's moons and bands; Saturn's rings and a considerable number of “deep sky” objects. Faint objects are out of reach, but unless you live in Fort Davis, Texas you will not see those even with the most powerful of telescopes. If a computer driven scope is your ticket you will have to give up some aperture (size) to stay under \$500.00, but try not to go under 4.5 inches in a reflector type telescope. You might notice that I have not mentioned much about power. Most viewing nights, I never go over 200 power and stay around 100 most of the time. Only a perfect night in a perfect place will allow a telescope to obtain its maximum power of 50 times the aperture in inches. My next article will deal with the “Refractor” type telescope”. This is the perfect companion to your radio hobby. Something else to spend your money on. (Phil Schwartztrauber has been enjoying astronomy for many years)

ECHO roster being developed - A current Houston ECHO Society roster is being developed and updated as an Excel spreadsheet. When it is completed, it will be placed on the ECHO web site w5eco.org.

Ham license test sessions

Location: American Red Cross
2700 Southwest Freeway @ Kirby, Houston, Texas
Facilitator and contact: Franz Laugermann, K3FL
By phone 713-738-1584 or 713-433-2436
E-mail: franzlaugermann@sbcglobal.net
K3FL web-site -- <http://web.wt.net/~franz/>

Walk-ins are always welcome but please call the facilitator to let him you are coming, **Especially** for the CW element. Please bring the following with you to the test session. A valid photo ID, the originals and photocopies of any applicable licenses and/or CSCE's and the current test fee. In the event that you do not have a photo-id, then two forms of non-photo ID are acceptable. These are a non-photo driver's license, Social Security Card, birth certificate, minor's work permit, school report card, business correspondence (such as a utility bill) with your name on it or a postmarked envelope addressed to you with the same address you are using on your Form 605. The current fee for the exam is \$14.

2005 Schedule

March

Tuesday March 22, 2005 7:00 P.M.

April

Saturday April 02, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday April 26, 2005 7:00 P.M.

May

Saturday May 07, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday May 24, 2005 7:00 P.M.

June

Saturday June 04, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday June 28, 2005 7:00 P.M.

July

Tuesday July 26, 2005 7:00 P.M.

August

Saturday August 06, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday August 23, 2005 7:00 P.M.

September

Saturday September 03, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday September 27, 2005 7:00 P.M.

October

Saturday October 01, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday October 25, 2005 7:00 P.M.

November

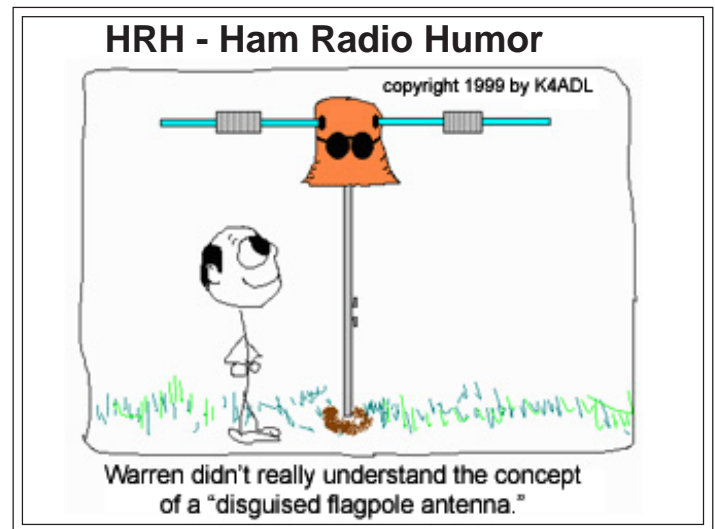
Saturday November 05, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday November 22, 2005 7:00 P.M.

December

Saturday December 03, 2005 9:00 A.M.

Note: There is only one test session in the month of July and December because of the holidays.



Web site updated

Many, many thanks to Mike, KA5CVH and Chase Ulrich, KC5MPK for updating the Houston ECHO Society web site and getting the club an easy URL to remember (w5eco.org). Be sure to take a look - it looks great! Chase helped with the style sheets and code issues. Mike says he hopes you find the new design easy to navigate. The site is being hosted on the KC5MPK server "Gollum" located in Longview, Texas. He said hosting the ECHO web site on qsl.net had been OK but qsl.net has gotten so slow over the past two to three years it had become unacceptable for ECHO's needs. ECHO does plan to continue to hosting its email reflector with qsl.net.

ECHO's mail reflector

The Houston ECHO Society has an e-mail reflector where you can post messages and read messages - to get on the reflector, go to <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/echo> for more information.

147.08 back on the air

Thanks to several people on the ECHO technical committee and at the repeater location, 147.08 is now back on the air. The repeater had developed some problems that required maintenance, so a backup repeater is temporarily in place until the regular repeater can be repaired. The autopatch should be working.

THE OLD DXER

The sunspots were roaring and the Old Dixer was working DX night and day. The faithful XYL had had it with his QRZing and blew her stack. "DX DX DX - thats all you ever think about!" she groaned "Why I'll bet you don't even remember our wedding date!!" "I mostly certainly do" was the immediate reply. "It was June 14th, 1958 - Thats the night I worked the XT1, the CRØ, and the AC6!! — By AC6V

Public Service Events

List courtesy of Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

March 12, 2005

The Continental Airlines Cycling Classic

<http://www.active.com/>

event_detail.cfm?event_id=1170151 Montgomery
10 operators needed

March 13, 2005

Bluebonnet Express

<http://www.northwestcyclingclub.com/>

Hempstead - 20 operators needed

March 20, 2005

Tour de Cypress

<http://www.teamcure.org/tourdecypress.htm>

West Houston 17 operators needed

BP MS150 April 16 and 17, 2005

www.ms150.org

Amateur radio operators are the primary communications for the MS150 and provide communications on the entire ride from Houston to Austin. For more information please go to www.houstonhams.org or you can sign up at the BP MS 150 Volunteer Signup Page at <http://ms150.org/ms150/volunteer/signup.cfm>. If you would like more information on the event or how you can help out, please contact N5VCX at 713-826-6917 or send an e-mail on the www.houstonhams.org web site
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
Communications Coordinator
BP MS150 Bike Tour

Upcoming ECHO Events

Monday, March 14 - Regular meeting at American Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 11 - Regular meeting at American Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 9 - Regular meeting at American Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, June 13 - Regular meeting at American Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 25 - Field Day - *come out and have with ECHO!*

Sunday, June 26 - Field Day - *we need your smiling faces for this event!*

Monday, July 11 - Regular meeting at American Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

August 8 - Regular meeting, Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

September 12 - Regular meeting at American Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.



Kent Marshall, W5TXV, at Field Day 2004

West Houston ham lunches

Several hams that work in far west Houston (the BW 8 - Westheimer general area) occasionally get together for lunch. For more information, contact Mark Tyler, K5GQ at k5gq@juno.com.

Topics for radio club meetings

Need a list of possible topics for an amateur radio club meeting? Try these ideas!

Amateur Television - APRS - ARES

ARRL Logbook of the World

ARRL officials - Aviation radio and control zones

Basic radio principles - Broadcast engineering

Computer access comparisons

Crossband operating- Digital Modulation Techniques

Digital Repeaters - Direction Finding

DX chasing/contesting - Electrical safety tips

Elmering a new ham - E-QSLs and E-QSL'ing

EZNEC antenna modeling - FCC Rules and Regulations

Flying antennas on kites - General Electronics

GPS Systems - Ham radio and computers

Ham web sites on the Net - Harris County EOC

Homebrewing - Houston EOC

How an autopatch works - How Repeaters work

How to shop at a hamfest - I-Link Repeaters

Indoor Antennas - Introduction to Ham Radio

Islands on the Air - Lasers - Learning radiogram techniques

Mobile HF Operating - NASA Astronaut

National Weather Service - Official Observer Program

Proper Grounding Techniques - PSK 31 and digital modes

QSL cards and QSL'ing - RACES

Radio Astronomy/SETI - Radio Frequency Interference

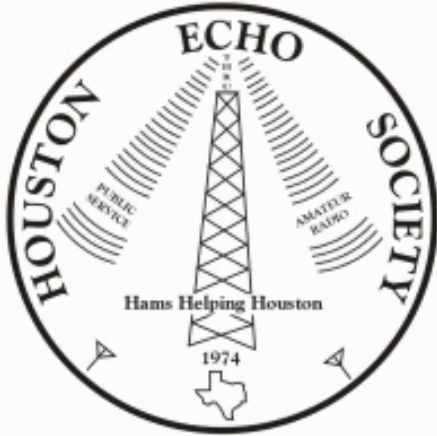
Radio Orienteering - Saltgrass Repeater Link System

Satellites - Show and Tell Night - Soldering PL-259s

Spectrum Analyzers - The Handi-Hams Program

Tubes and Old Radios

Windload calculations for antennas



Houston ECHO Society

W5ECO

P.O. Box 270540

Houston TX 77277

Membership Application

The Houston ECHO Society is a general purpose, amateur radio club serving the central Houston TX amateur radio community. The club exists to provide emergency communications support for the Greater Houston / Harris County area and that of the Houston Chapter of The American Red Cross. You need not be a licensed amateur radio operator to be a member. Membership is valid for 12 months from the time dues are received.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

FCC call sign: _____

ARRL member: Yes No

Date: _____

Do you have special interests such as contesting, digital modes, hf mobile etc? If so, let us know what they are.

Club secretary use only

Date dues rcv'd _____ Period covered _____ to _____