



# The Exciter

Meeting Monday, 27 Jul, 7:00pm (Denton Fire Station One)

JUL 2009

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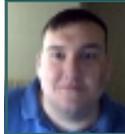
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☞ *The EXCITER* ☞

Is published each month for the purpose of informing DCARA members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to *The EXCITER* and to the original source.

## President's podium

By Brent, KD5WYU



Like one of my favorite cartoon characters says, my biscuits are burning, and its not even August yet! Stay cool out there, that's a challenge when its just so doggone hot that even the canines hunker down and whimper. Just as well that not much is going on in the DCARA world with the heat from the Daystar.

I am sorry to report that Tom Reese, KD5IPJ, of The Colony became a silent key at the very end of June due to complications from pneumonia.

Though bound to a wheelchair, Tom was very active in Denton County Skywarn, and also was active in our sister clubs LAARK and MARS as well as with the DARC in addition to the DCARA. Quiet bands and Good DX, Tom. You'll be missed by the rest of us carrying the torch forward for amateur radio.

Coming up on August 1st, we will need volunteers to assist with communications for Run The Lake Bridge. This will be a run to commemorate the dedication of the new NTTA Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge spanning Lake Lewisville from Lake Dallas to Oak Point. All you'll need is an HT and some sun screen. Check the Club web site or come to the meeting for more details on this as it develops.

The July 27th meeting of the DCARA will be held at 1900 hours (7 PM) at the City of Denton EOC just like last month. I will be presenting a updated and revised version of the Dstar 101 presentation I gave a year or so ago when the W5NGU stack came onto the US Root Network for the first time. Much has

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Field Day w/u

By Walt, KE5SOO

The 2009 Field Day was a Great Success. We had a lot of folks come out and help set up at the Denton County EOC. We set about 4 wire antennas in the parking lot and a Yagi on the County's 110 foot tower. We utilized both of the County's Mobile Comm Centers, ECOMM 701, and the station in the EOC. Three other stations where set up outside under tents. We were all set up in plenty of time. We began transmitting right on time. About 45 minutes into operating we got word that MOC-2 (aka Cletus) was being deployed to Sanger. Pre-planning efforts paid off and we were able to get MOC-2 out in record time. A few hours later the 146.92 repeater went down. The back up repeater was turned on within a couple of hours. Even after all that we kept communicating with no issues. It was a great exercise in overcoming problems during an emergency event. Luckily everything calmed down in time for Dinner. Dinner was served on time and we had a great turnout. Guy Story attempted a AO-51 pass but as expected on field day there was quite a pile up. We continued to

*(Continued on page 4)*

### New Meeting Location:

Denton Central Fire Station, SW corner of Hickory and Bell, parking south of building, 1900L.

Brent will be the speaker at the July meeting. He will be giving an introduction to D-Star.

## Young hams net

By Mary Kate, KE5UEG

Last year we tried to start a young hams net on the first Saturday of the month. Unfortunately we did not get very much participation. Since Saturday nights didn't work we thought we would try out Thursday nights.

The next young Hams Net will be Thursday August 6th at 7pm. The purpose of this net is to give young hams 16 years and younger an opportunity to be involved on the radio. Any young person who does not have a HAM license is welcome to participate provided they are in the presence of a licensed control operator. Adult hams are also encouraged to check in and interact with the young hams. After the net the young hams are encouraged to take the opportunity to make contact with other net participants.

We hope to get enough interest so that other Young HAMS can have the opportunity to be the Net Control Operator.

(Continued from page 1)

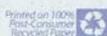
changed in the Dstar world since that time and I will try to cover it as best as I can within the time available.

I hope to see everyone there, until then, as always, 73.

## Area repeaters

Freq	Shift	PL	Call	Name
145.1000	none	none	W5NGU	DCARA Digipeater-DENTON
145.1700	-.600	110.9	W5FKN	DCARA-Denton County EOC
145.2100	-.600	110.9	N5MJQ	Metrocrest ARA-Carrollton
145.2300	-.600	88.5	N5ERS	Flower Mound
145.4900	-.600	85.4	WD5U	Rosston Tower
146.9200	-.600	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA - Denton
147.2200	+.600	100.0	N5IUF	Collinsville Tower
147.3800	+.600	110.9	K5LRK	LAARK - The Colony
441.3000	+5.0	146.2	N5API	UNT - Denton
441.3250	+5.0	88.5	W5NGU	DCARA - Denton - eCOMM
441.3750	+5.0	114.8	KA5R	Trophy Club
441.5500	+5.0	123.0	KE5UT	Celina
442.6500	+5.0	110.9	N5MJQ	Metrocrest ARA-Carrollton
443.5250	+5.0	118.8	WA5LIE	DCARA - Denton
444.0500	+5.0	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA-Denton County EOC
443.7375	+5.0	141.3	N6LXX	Rosston Tower
444.7250	+5.0	100.0	N5IUF	Collinsville Tower
444.8500	+5.0	88.5	N5ERS	Flower Mound
927.1250	-25.0	103.5	N6LXX	Rosston Tower
927.6125	-25.0	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA-Denton County EOC
927.8750	-25.0	103.5	N5YEJ	Flower Mound
147.4500	-1.0	none	W5NGU-C	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "C"
442.9250	+5.0	none	W5NGU-B	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "B"
1293.4000	-20.0	none	W5NGU-A	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "A"
1253.6000	none	none	W5NGU-G	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "G"

Kim Lake  
Store Manager



Phone: 972-436-3099  
FAX: 972-221-5527

Store 217  
801 W. Main St.  
Lewisville, TX 75067

We appreciate the continued support of the Wal-Mart Super Center on Main Street in Lewisville.

## DCARA information

DCARA on line: [www.dcara.net](http://www.dcara.net)  
Denton ARES on line: [www.denton-ares.org](http://www.denton-ares.org)

Meetings: Fourth Monday of each month (except Dec) at 1900L. We are currently meeting at the new Denton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 9060 Teasley Lane, Denton. For more info on the Denton County Amateur Radio Association, contact one of the individuals listed to the right.

Name	Position	Phone No.	Email
Brent Willcox	President	214-724-2010	bwillcox@ares.homeip.net
Mike Carline	Vice Pres.	940-262-0265	kd5zca@fam2.com
Gerald Marchant	Secretary	940-387-2314	wb5nzv@arrl.net
Walt Mayfield	Operations	940-368-4659	walt@Mayfield7.com
Eric Gildersleeve	Tech Dir.	360-304-0904	kd7cao@gmail.com

## Meeting minutes



Denton County Amateur Radio Association

General Meeting – June 22nd, 2009 – 7pm

At the Denton County EOC

President Brent Willcox presiding

Introductions – 53 present

Program by Walt on how to buy and sell ham gear on eBAY

Minutes, Galen made motion to accept, Walt seconded. The motion was approved.

Brent presented a reported on D-Star.

Technical reports

Eric reported that a trip to the Stark site was made to check the weather station. It was reset and is working fine since. Planning a future maintenance trip. Stewart said that all is ok at his location. Jay said he has a lot of problems at his site right now. The GMRS is off line, CERT is off line, and the 900 is having problems. John reported that his 440 is OK, still have a problem with the 900 repeater, and some work need to be on done on the link radio at the EOC.

Gerald presented financial report. \$2395 is current balance.

Guy discussed ARES activity. There were F0 tornados in Flower Mound and Lewisville.

Walt covered Field Day activities and schedule.

New Business – Bob Bender said the Red Cross has money for a station and will be installed by contractor. They would like for the DCARA to test is after installation is complete.

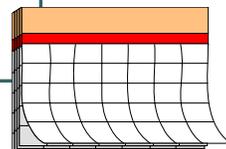
Gerald said and assisted living facility needs help for 4 hams that live there. Galen said he will go out and talk to them and determine what we can do to help.

Greg said he has two 900 HT radios for those interested at \$125 apiece.

Jerry reported on the DICE09 exercise that was held in Austin the first week of June.

Meeting adjourned at 905pm

## Coming events



**JUL**

**26** Amateur Radio Test session, see below  
**27** DCARA Meeting, 1900, Denton FS One

**AUG**

**23** Amateur Radio Test session  
**24** DCARA Meeting, 1900,

For up to date info on contests, go to: [www.arrl.org/contest](http://www.arrl.org/contest)

## Speakers needed

By Walt, KE5SOO

If anyone has any topics that they would like to present at a club meeting or have a topic they would like to see presented at a club meeting please contact Walt - KE5SOO via email at [walt@mayfield7.com](mailto:walt@mayfield7.com).

## Amateur test session

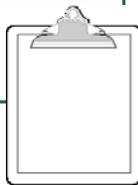
By Jon, N5JDG

The July Test Session will be in the Denton County EOC. The time is 26 Jul 09, 1500L. The County EOC is located at 9060 Teasley Lane (FM 2181), south of Denton. For licensed amateurs, talk-in is on Denton 146.92 minus (110.9) repeater.



Tests will normally be conducted on the fourth Sunday of every month. All test participants: you must bring your picture ID, a COPY of your picture ID and \$14.00 (exact change please). If applicable (ie. upgrading) also bring your FCC License, a COPY of your FCC License, your CSCE, and a COPY of your CSCE. For more information please contact Jon Gumfory (N5JDG) at 940-300-0243 or [<n5jdg@cebridge.net>](mailto:n5jdg@cebridge.net).

## Meeting agenda



Call to Order

Guest Recognition

Member Recognition

Moment of Silence recognizing KD5IPJ becoming an SK

Program: Dstar 101 – Brent Willcox

Minutes approval

Dstar report -- Brent

Repeater Report – Eric

Treasury Report – Gerald

ARES/RACES report – Guy

Ops report -- Walt

Old Club Business

Field day Wrapup -- Walt

New Club Business

Announcements

Last call

Adjourn

(Continued from page 1)

operate through the night. Because of several dedicated folks we were able to maintain three stations throughout the night. The entire 24 + hour period was a great TEAM effort. The EOC parking lot was a great location. We were able to practice setting up in the same type of environment we would during an emergency event like the Hurricane efforts last year when our folks set up in a grocery store parking lot. Overall this was an awesome field day. We ended up with over 600 contacts. We got every state but 4 and we had a lot of visitors to the site. Most of the equipment that the Jeri and Gerald wanted tested worked very well. Most importantly several new HAMS were able to work with more experienced HAMS and had a great time. We would like to thanks everyone who helped this year!

## New digital schedule

From The ARRL

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB027

ARLB027 W1AW to add new digital modes to its transmitting schedule

ZCZC AG27

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 27 ARLB027

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT July 14, 2009

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB027

ARLB027 W1AW to add new digital modes to its transmitting schedule

After a survey of W1AW-listeners, W1AW will begin using two different modes on August 17, 2009. On August 17, 2009, W1AW will replace its AMTOR and ASCII transmissions with PSK31 and MFSK16, respectively. RTTY (Baudot) will continue to be the first digital mode used in the transmission schedule. The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions will remain the same. All regular 6 PM and 9 PM eastern time digital transmissions will begin with RTTY. PSK31 and MFSK16 will be sent as time allows. The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will be sent using RTTY and PSK31.

The W1AW operating schedule -- complete with times and frequencies can be found on the ARRLWeb page at,

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>.

NNNN

/EX

## dcara\_ops yahoo group

By Walt, KE5SOO

Want to Volunteer to help during an Event?

If you are interested in participating in providing communications during one of our many events during the year please sign up on our Yahoo Group! Go to

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dcara\\_ops/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dcara_ops/)

and click on the join group button.

## Repeater report

By Eric, KD7CAO

As many have noticed the 146.920 repeater located at Guinn Hall has been experiencing Technical Difficulties. The first noticeable problem was on Field Day Weekend when the repeater failed to repeat. John N5API went up to the site and after some investigation felt that the power supply was the issue, on a later trip Gerald WB5NZV, John N5API, and I went up to re-investigate the issue. We discovered that the power supply seemed to be feeding power to all the appropriate places. Gerald recalled a previous account when a connector from the Power Supply had corroded causing issues, upon that I removed the connector cleaned all the terminals, and did a final inspection of the problem. Everything powered up without any issues.

During all these issues we asked Harry Hettinger with the City of Denton to activate our backup site. Everyone that used the site noticed the diminished coverage area and lack of courtesy beeps, but the backup site worked without a problem.

As the weeks have progressed there have been other instances when the repeater has stopped working for very short periods of time. What we are now hoping for is a major failure so that we can do a proper check of the system.

On another note regarding repeaters, many of you have probably noticed that the 146.490 machine with the callsign of WD5U on Rosston has been off the air. According to Walt Knight the controller for these machines has bit the dust. It is unclear when this repeater will be brought back on the air, but most likely we will do the migration to the new frequency at the same time.

## eCOMM 701

By Eric, KD7CAO

During field day weekend several operators had been noticing voltage fluctuations on their radios and other equipment. I believe I have traced this problem down to a faulty AC Shore Power Connector on eCOMM-701. One evening after work I headed over to Gerald's house to feed his cat while he was gone on vacation when I noticed a strange glow emanating from the Shore Power Connector. I quickly killed power to the trailer and noticed that our slightly de-colored connections were now melted. After discussing with the club officers it was decided to make an emergency purchase of a new shore power kit and replace all the damaged parts. Luckily I was able to get them the next day from Camping World and replaced the parts.

eCOMM-701 is now fixed and fully operational. We will have to look very close at appropriate loads placed on eCOMM-701 the Shore Power Connection and all other parts are rated for a total of 30 Amps, this includes the main breaker. It is unclear why this happened but, may be related to oxidation on the pins or socket.

For those that assist in the preparation of making eCOMM-701 road worthy after an event please ensure that all equipment is properly secured, doors are bungee corded, and chairs have been tied down. After field day we discovered the HF Radio had not been properly secured and flew off the counter and landed thankfully on a nice cushion. We've had incidents such as this before and have not been as lucky. If you have a question about where something goes or how it should be secured please talk with one of the officers. Let's keep eCOMM-701 in tip top shape for future events. (The same goes for any other equipment we use such as the tower trailer, MOC2, or Goliath.)

Walt will be organizing a Saturday Work Party for eCOMM-701. We have a lot to cleanup and re-organize so look for his E-Mails in the near future.

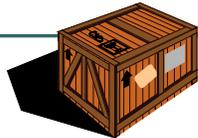
DENTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 50433  
DENTON, TX 76206



JUL 2009



## Surplus Equipment



Second month listing  
(Jul Sale)  
None

First month listing  
(Aug Sale)  
None



As long as this section does not get too crowded, I will accept sale or wanted notices for personal equipment from members or non-members. Priority will be given to members. Editor.

YAESU - FT-8800R 144/430 MHz Dual Band FM Transceiver

If you're ready for the best in a Dual-Band FM Mobile Transceiver, the FT-8800R is ready for you! With easy operation, outstanding receiver performance, and crossband repeat capability, the FT-8800R is the new standard of comparison! I have one still in the box for \$325.00. Contact Ken Rainey at [k5kmr@arrl.net](mailto:k5kmr@arrl.net)

**Wanted:** I am looking for one of the older metal multi-section push-up poles 30 or 40 ft.

Contact Ken Rainey at [k5kmr@arrl.net](mailto:k5kmr@arrl.net)

ICOM Pro III

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\$1800

[k5ybx@arrl.net](mailto:k5ybx@arrl.net) or 940 367-0362