



The **HOTLINE**

Official Newsletter for the
Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club
Waco, Texas

Volume XLII, Number 4

April 2017

The Russian Woodpecker

By Norris Martin, KB5SLI
HOTARC Treasurer

After the meeting this month we will go in search of the elusive *Russian Woodpecker*. If you were working the HF bands during the late 70s and into the 80s, you have already been introduced to the woodpecker. I was not yet a ham, but an avid shortwave listener. We were all intrigued and annoyed by the repetitive tapping sound that would mysteriously come and go, randomly changing frequencies. It did not follow any rules as it interfered with established broadcasts and radio operations.



The continuous tapping earned it the nickname of the “woodpecker.” A worldwide foxhunt indicated the source to be within the Soviet Union. Why was it there? Why did it frequency hop? Was it looking for something or trying to harm us? I’ll try to answer these questions and more during the program this month.

President’s Corner

Hello Everyone! I hope you had a great Easter and got to enjoy good food and great company.

Last month the Baylor University Student’s Foundation asked HOTARC to help provide communication for the Bearathon. Sixteen members volunteered to help with this event. From everyone I have spoken with, this event went very well with very few issues. This was a great opportunity to dust off the equipment and make sure everything worked within acceptable parameters. I found several issues with my person equipment that will need to be looked at. Now is the time to fine tune our equipment, and identify issue to make sure it is working properly so we can be fully ready to respond if an emergency arises.



After quite some time HOTARC’s Communications Trailer repairs are ***finally complete!*** This upcoming meeting we will discuss a plan for putting everything back into the trailer to make it usable again. This is an opportune time to discuss any potential modifications that we need to implement to make the trailer more user friendly.

We have a great presentation prepared from one of our own members Norris Martin who will discuss the “Russian Woodpecker.” I’m excited to hear what he has to share, and I look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming meeting this week.

Kindest regards,

Lynn Gustafson, KD5DZU
HOTARC President

For the Record

HOTARC Meeting of Members March 23, 2017

President Lynn Gustafson, KD5DZU called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the W5NCD Workshop Meeting Room.

Bill Feltenberger, KD5UEW opened the meeting with a prayer.

19 members; and, 1 visitor present: Michelle Gustafson.

Last Meeting Minutes. A motion to accept the Minutes of the February 2017 meeting was made by James Jud KA5QKL seconded by Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW, and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the February Treasurers Report was made by Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW and 2nd by Paul Collins KG5DHS; motion approved by membership.

Committee Reports:

- **ARES:** Ed Hynan KC5NI reported that we will be updating the ARES membership. Lynn Gustafson, KD5DZU reminded the attendees that there is a weekly ARES Check-in which everyone is encouraged to participate in. If you are interested in being a member of ARES, contact Ed at KC5KNI@arrl.net or 254-722-4578.
- **Trailer Committee:** Lynn KD5DZU reported that the trailer refurbishment is completed with a cost of \$1536.49. Repairs and modifications were reviewed. After return of the trailer, the trailer committee volunteers need to begin re-installing equipment and preparing it for operational use. Trailer will be temporarily stored at the W5ZDN Workshop.
- **Repeater Committee:** Clint AE5CA reported that repeaters are working.
- **Website:** Lynn KD5DZU reported website working fine.
- **D-Star:** David Bush KC5UOZ indicated that was nothing new to report; repeater is working satisfactorily.
- **Education Committee:** Clint Anderson AE5CA reported that Technician License classes April 8 and 22nd. Could use some volunteers to assist classes.
- **Public Relations:** Nothing reported at this time.
- **Bearathon.** Jim Jud KA5QKL reviewed team station assignments and initial check in procedures. Event is March 25 from 7:00 until noon; check in at 6:00 am at Texas Sports Hall of Fame. We will use of the Baylor repeater 147.16 and UHF 442.45 repeaters.

The Treasurer Reports...

Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report, March 2017	
Beginning Account Balance	\$ 11,853.61
Income	
Dues	\$180.00
Auction income	265.00
Interest	<u>0.09</u>
TOTAL Income	\$ 445.09
Expenses	
Trailer repair	\$1,536.49
PayPal	<u>5.43</u>
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 1,541.92
Ending Account Balance	\$ 10,756.78
Uncleared activity (as of 4/16/2017)	
Credits: Dues \$30.00, WWW100 donation \$500.00, Tech license class \$50.00	
Debits: PayPal fees \$2.66, Trailer registration \$122.50	
Amount in account:	\$ 11,211.62
(incl. Flower Fund: \$135.26)	
Submitted by Norris Martin, KB5SLI HOTARC Treasurer	

Old Business

- **Field Day 2017.** Lynn KD5DZU reported that Hewitt Park reservation has been made for June 24. Clint AE5CA noted a need to notify elected officials. Dwan will be providing dinner and will need some assistance. Also, Lynn emphasized the need for the trailer to be operational for Field Day.
- **HOTARC Audit.** Lynn KD5DZU reported that the Audit Committee has begun task.

New Business

- **Trailer Registration.** Motion by Clint AE5CA to approve \$150 to cover registration of trailer and 2nd by Ed KC5KNI; which is approved.
- **Generator Repair.** Motion to spend up to \$200 to repair a muffler on one of the noisy generators was made by Bill KD5UEW and 2nd by Drew KE5UBO; which is approved.
- **Paul Holroyd Estate.** A Diamond X-200A dual band antenna was provided to HOTARC which will be installed on the HOTARC trailer which was approved unanimously by the membership present.

Motion to adjourn was recognized by Lynn KD5DZU at 7:47 pm.

Post Meeting Program

A special presentation was provided by Larry Bush W5NCD about his experience with designing and fabrication of specialized 2 meter antenna for Fox Hunts.

Submitted by

Dan Hapenny, AG5HF [Aggie5 Have Fun]
HOTARC Secretary

McLennan County A.R.E.S. What is A.R.E.S.?

by Ed Hynan, KC5KNI
McLennan County Emergency Coordinator

I have had numerous (good) questions about how to get involved in ARES and just specifically what is expected of members.

The *Amateur Radio Emergency Service* (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur radio service, only amateur radio operators are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.



ARES is what amateur radio is all about—using equipment and communications skills to help others. Amateur radio and ARES have played a big part in disaster response since the events of 9/11. Support for recovery efforts in New York, Washington, Texas, Colorado, and Arizona fires have put amateur radio in the public spotlight. Registration is necessary to best match available equipment and operator availability to support disaster relief efforts. In addition, security requirements for responders have become a requirement as a result of the 9/11 attacks. Access to Emergency Operations Centers, hospitals, and incident command posts will be limited to those individuals who have been screened and identified. If you are interested in working disaster or emergency response in any of these areas, contact Frank Patterson at Waco-McLennan County Emergency Management (750-5911). McLennan County ARES is the backup communication resource for Waco-McLennan County Emergency Management.



Want To Join A.R.E.S.? If you are interested in becoming a member of McLennan County ARES, go to the ARES page at the HOTARC web site <http://www.hotarc.org/ares/> and click the link to download the ARES application. E-mail or mail the completed application according to the instructions listed at the bottom of the application. Your application will be processed and you will receive an ARES ID Card. Check in to the *Weekly McLennan County ARES Net* every Monday at 8:00 PM on the 145.15 repeater (tone 123.0). If you have a sincere desire to help, registration is necessary before the next emergency, not after it occurs.

The HOTLINE is the monthly newsletter of the Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club (HOTARC), Inc., a nonprofit corporation, chartered by the State of Texas and principally located in Waco. It is permissible to use any of the original material contained herein, provided proper credit is given to the source.
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HOTARC 2017 Board of Directors

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Director (2018): Terry Williams KD5KJU,
Director3@hotarc.org

Director (2019): Ed Hynan KC5KNI,
Director1@hotarc.org

Club Repeaters

145.15 MHz (input at -600 kHz, tone 123 Hz)

146.98 MHz (input at -600 kHz, D-Star)

442.875 MHz (input at +5.0 MHz, tone 123 Hz)

VE Testing

Our next test date is May 20, 10:00 AM in the [Baylor University's Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building](#), upstairs in Room 207. **Bring: 1)** testing fee of \$15 (cash only); **2)** a **photo ID** (two for first-time licensees); and for already licensed amateurs: **3)** **Reference copy or photocopy** of current license; and **4)** **photocopy** of any relevant CSCE. **Contact:** Linda Hynan, AC5QQ at 254-666-4873 or Linda.Hynan@UTSouthwestern.edu. See [our web site](#) for more information.

Meeting Notice

HOTARC will hold its *Annual Meeting of Members* at 7:00 pm on Thursday April 27 at the *W5NCD Workshop*, [12772 Chapel Rd in Lorena](#). Meetings generally last about 75 minutes consisting of fellowship, general Club business, and an interesting program and discussions. Visiting hams, family members, and prospective hams are welcomed!

**Use your radio skills and gear
to be part of the solution!**