



# The **HOTLINE**

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

Volume XLI, Number 10

October 2016

## **Home Brew Night!**

by Clint Anderson, AC5CA  
HOTARC Past-President

Home brew Night is my favorite meeting of the year. WE ALL get the opportunity to see some of the projects that YOU have been working on. Clearly, our hobby has *many* elements that make up the whole of the hobby. Most hams will have a favorite aspect to the hobby. For some, that maybe contesting. For others it's Emergency Communications. I think my favorite part is being able to design and set up a project, and THEN *see it work!*

This has lead me down several paths. One that have I immensely enjoyed is setting up Mesh systems. Whether it's the systems at area Hospitals, or at our Field Day site, Mesh has been a lot of fun. Another fun path is APRS—especially the system we deploy and use for the Waco Wild West. We have challenges and areas of poor coverage, but our system is getting better every year. I am already planning some additional hardware to improve our results next year!

And then, I have built several kits over the years. These have included Tiny Trak 3 boards, and a TNC-X. Earlier this year I put together my PI-Fox box that we used for the return of the *HOTARC Fox Hunt*. Working through the challenges of designing, integrating, building and deploying these projects has provided hundreds of hours of fun for me—well, at least it was pretty fun once it was working! ☺

So, as I've shared these projects over the past months, I hope you will be likewise inspired and encouraged to share with us some of the things YOU have been working on. We can all share in your excitement, and maybe even learn a little from your struggles and failures.



## **President's Corner**

by Rodney Baden, K5YKC

This month we devote the meeting program to Home-Brew projects. If you've had some creative juices flowing this year, come and tell us and show us about it!

You've seen my emails about the Christmas Luncheon. We need to make a decision about that right away, if we hope to have a place to meet and eat and fellowship, as usual.

And, since this is our next-to-last meeting, we need to elect Officers and a new Director next month. Could that be you? Would you like to nominate someone? Step up and serve!

Lynn will cover for me at this month's meeting, so come on with your projects! 73.

Rodney Baden, K5YKC  
HOTARC President



## For the Record...

### HOTARC Meeting of Members September 22, 2016

Club President Rodney Baden, K5YKC called the September 22, 2016 meeting to order at 7:02 PM with 16 members and 1 visitor in attendance.

Bill Feltenberger, KD5UEW opened the meeting with a prayer.

- **Guests:** Karl Saathoff, KG5D2V.

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the August 2016 meeting were moved to be accepted by Ed Hynan KC5KNI, 2nd by Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's report.** The August Treasurers Report was moved to be accepted by Clint Anderson AE5CA, 2nd by Paul KG5DHS, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### Committee Reports:

- **ARES:** Ed Hynan KC5KNI is seeking volunteers for next year's Net Control operators.
- **Trailer Committee:** Lynn Gustafson KD5DZU did not get the quotes he was hoping for. Replacement aluminum door approx quote is \$400. Another option is forthcoming.
- **Repeater Committee:** Lynn KD5DZU reported that D-STAR is still working well. Don Alsop AI5AI and David Bush KC5UOZ adjusted squelch problem on 145.15. Waiting to install upgrade to the repeater until we can be more confident. 442.875 repeater is still working very well.
- **Website:** John AC5CV reported all working well. Clint AE5CA motion to donate \$150 to Paul Chamberlain for web service, and \$100 every September thereafter as long the web service continues, second by Jim KA5QKL.
- **ATV Repeater:** David Bush, KC5UOZ nothing new.
- **Education Committee:** Chuck Schumaker (sp)? Elm Mott Cub Scout troop, wanting to do JOTA Saturday Oct 15, needs a couple helpers. Contact Clint AE5CA to help. Baylor cancelled Merit Badge College this year because of a scheduling conflict.
- **Public Relations:** The Club needs a PR person!
- **Special events:**
  - **Wild West Bike Race.** October 8, 2016. Clint AE5CA reported sign-ups are looking good. Keith will pull the trailer. HOTARC-sponsored trackers are being "coordinated" for this event on 147.50. Contact Clint to volunteer, or ask questions. Clint will be out of town the days before, but here on event day. We will be tracking with [APRSIS32](#): Try it out!

### The Treasurer Reports...

#### Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report, September 2016

<b>Beginning Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 8,273.21</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	<b>\$10.00</b>
Interest	<b>0.07</b>
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>\$ 10.07</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Website hosting	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
<b>Ending Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 8,133.28</b>
<b>Uncleared activity (as of 10/19/2016)</b>	
<b>Credits:</b> (none)	
<b>Debits:</b> (none)	
<b>Amount in account:</b>	<b>\$ 8,133.28</b>
(incl. Flower Fund: \$136.36)	

Submitted by  
Norris Martin, KB5SLI  
HOTARC Treasurer

- **Komen Race.** October 22, 2016. If they want our help, we will need volunteers. Please contact Clint AE5CA to volunteer. They've not yet responded to our inquiries.
- **Fox Hunt.** Sept 10 event. Be practicing and getting your RDF setup working now!
- **October Meeting is Homebrew.** Everyone get your stuff ready, and for show n' tell. Use video if you like.

## Old Business

- **501(c)3 status:** Norris Martin, KB5SLI gave a presentation. Trailer taxes now successfully waived by showing address at KB5SLI QTH. We are registered as 501(c)7, hence not eligible for tax-deductible donations. If we want to apply for 501(c)3, requires 1023-EZ filed with fee of \$275, and rewriting of by-laws to comply (e.g., dissolution clause, membership approval process). Glen Warnstaff K5CPD offered to help us file paperwork (for a fee), if we decide to pursue this. Motion Larry KC5JWD, second KD5UEW to *table the idea of pursuing 501(c)3*, and the motion passed with one vote against.
- **House Bill 1301** needs our Senators' support. PLEASE go online and send a note to our Senators. See [ARRL web page](#) for info and links.
- The Workshop room needs to be swept before meetings and testing sessions.

## New Business

- **Program for coming months:** October will be Homebrew—everyone be preparing your show-n-tell. Nov-Dec will be our Annual Meeting.
- **Nominating Committee.** Need a couple members to work with an existing Director. Please contact Rodney to volunteer, by next October meeting.
- **Applications for Membership:**  
Karl Saathoff KG5DZV applied for Full Member. Motion to accept Jim KA5QKL, second by AE5CA, unanimously approved by members present.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Jud KA5QKL at 8:09 pm.

## Presentation

Clint Anderson AE5CA gave a report on the return of the Fox Hunt to HOTARC in September. Three teams participated, two found the fox! It was a learning experience for all!

Submitted by  
John Chamberlain, AC5CV  
Substitute Secretary



## APRS Works!

by Clint Anderson, AC5CA  
HOTARC Past-President

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to those of you that provided your trackers for use at the Waco Wild West 100 Bike event. I can't imagine being able to pull it off without the help of your trackers. I will have your trackers at the club meeting for you to pick them up. I really do not want to have to charge you storage fees for keeping them. ☺

I have a few things I would like to recommend for all you tracker owners.

- **First.** I recommend that each of you get your tracker out and run it for a couple days and verify that it is working. The best way to do this is flip the switch on the back to the left (normal mode), plug it and to

set the radio to 144.390. You should be able to see your tracker on <http://aprs.fi>. If it is not working correctly, then let's use this opportunity to fix it *before* we need to use them again.

- **Second.** I recommend we replace the inexpensive cigarette lighter plugs most are using. The current plugs do not stay inserted very well, and then the position reports stop coming!. I have used this one: <https://amzn.com/B001JT97C8> to replace the cords on my trackers. I personally replaced the Molex connector with power poles on my trackers, but either type can be used.
- **Third.** Those of you with the older (rectangular) GPS pucks may want to update to a newer, more sensitive (round) GPS. I can recommend this one: <https://amzn.com/B00AMAJFUO>. (NOTE: Trackers need a serial GPS device; not USB.) We may need to change the end connector or make an adapter cable but these have much better electronics than the early generations of GPS pucks.

If you need some help with using your tracker, please let me know. I have the software to reprogram them and can help fix most of the issues you may be experiencing. It's actually fun to see where you've been driving—especially when you take a road trip. Start tracking yourself!

## McLennan County ARES: Where Do We Stand?

by Ed Hynan, KC5KNI  
McLennan County Emergency Coordinator

Let's consider the positives and the negatives.

### PROS:

- We practice with weekly training Nets—and have a generally good response.
- We have dedicated Net Control support for events— keeps things running smoothly.
- Upon activation we provide support to National Weather Service—and McLennan County.
- We participate in public service events which provides real time, non-scripted training.
- We require specialized training for storm spotting and disaster response.
- We explore new technologies that can have direct impact on disaster response.
- We have a process for amateurs to register for disaster response support.

### CONS:

- We have only about 20% of our membership qualified to support disaster response operations, through either DPS or Emergency Management.
- Every member of HOTARC is NOT a registered member of ARES.
- There seems to be a reluctance to volunteer to serve as an ARES Net Control.



We have more pros than cons. But waiting for a disaster to happen is not the time to realize that we have to follow-through and complete the process to insure that we will have sufficient operators to fulfill required positions in support of our local community should a disaster happen here. Every member of HOTARC should be a member of ARES. Those wanting to work disaster response must complete the process of registering with DPS and/or Emergency Management to get the necessary background checks and credentials so that **WHEN THE DISASTER HAPPENS** we can slip into the necessary positions and support our community. Every member of ARES should be able to act as a Net Control station. Members participate in the Nets and special events and are familiar with the responsibilities of the Net Control. That is what the Monday night Training Nets are about— practice for the real thing. Get involved— volunteer to be a Net Control.



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 2016 Board of Directors

**President:** Rodney Baden K5YKC,

[President@hotarc.org](mailto:President@hotarc.org)

**Vice Pres:** Lynn Gustafson KD5DZU,

[VicePres@hotarc.org](mailto:VicePres@hotarc.org)

**Secretary:** (open),

[Secretary@hotarc.org](mailto:Secretary@hotarc.org)

**Treasurer:** Norris Martin KB5SLI,

[Treasurer@hotarc.org](mailto:Treasurer@hotarc.org)

**Past-Pres.:** Clint Anderson AE5CA,

[PastPres@hotarc.org](mailto:PastPres@hotarc.org)

**Director (2016):** Ed Hynan KC5KNI,

[Director1@hotarc.org](mailto:Director1@hotarc.org)

**Director (2017):** Paul Collins KG5DHS,

[Director2@hotarc.org](mailto:Director2@hotarc.org)

**Director (2018):** Terry Williams KD5KJU,

[Director3@hotarc.org](mailto:Director3@hotarc.org)



### 2016 Board of Directors

Back: AE5CA, KC5KNI, KG5DHS, KD5KJU

Front: K5YKC, KD5DZU, —, KB5SLI

**We are seeking prospective Officers for 2017!**

**Do YOU have the right stuff?**

## 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 November 19, 10:00 AM at the **W5NCD Workshop**, [12772 Chapel Rd in Lorena](#).

**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](mailto:Linda.Hynan@UTSouthwestern.edu). See [our web site](#) for more information.

## Meeting Notice

HOTARC will hold a *Meeting of Members* at 7:00 pm on Thursday October 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. Visiting hams, family members, and prospective hams are welcomed!

**October means it's "Home-Brew Night."**  
**Show us your "stuff!"** 😊