

The **HOTLINE**

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

Volume XLIV, Number 9

September 2019

From the President

Greetings from San Antonio!

I want to thank everyone that worked the WWW race and know that the Bike Club appreciated all your endeavors toward making it a success. Clint: a HUGE THANK YOU goes out to you!

As you will notice, I cannot attend this month's meeting. So, as the year draws to an end (I know it's hard to believe!), I would like you to start considering that HOTARC elections will be coming up soon, and there are some MAJOR positions that will need to be filled. Perhaps one of the most important is **Webmaster**. This might come as a shock to some, but John AC5JC and his bride are planning to relocate to the metroplex in 2020. That will leave this position very much needing to be filled. A smooth transition is possible if a qualified member can be trained for this position BEFORE John leaves town. And John departure means a vacancy for the Treasurer position. So, if you have talents in these areas, please [contact John](#) ASAP (especially regarding the Webmaster role!). And if you have bookkeeping skills, please toss your hat in the ring for Treasurer when the Nominating Committee calls.



I will be discussing other positions next month so that you have time to cuss and discuss what area fits you best. Until then be safe and take care!

73

Dwan Needham, KE5JWY
HOTARC President

HOTARC Elections Coming Soon!

by Jeb Leutwyler, KG5WHS
HOTARC Secretary

In just ten weeks, HOTARC Members will be voting to fill Board Member vacancies at our Annual Meeting. Each year we elect a **President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary**, and one new **Director**. A Director is a three-year commitment, but the other positions are just one-year terms. Extensive technical knowledge is NOT required, but some wisdom and leadership abilities, along with enthusiasm and a willingness to help lead Club members is very valuable. This is not a full-time job, but it does look good on your resume!

So, please, **everyone**, ask yourself: How can *I* help make HOTARC the best Amateur Radio Club in Texas? When the Nominating Committee calls, consider: What role can I fill? How can I contribute?

KE5TOC Auction

Following the September Meeting of Members, we will hold an auction of ham radio gear from the estate of KE5TOC (SK), a Waco-area ham. All proceeds go to the KE5TOC family, and HOTARC members have an opportunity to acquire useful ham gear at a very reasonable cost. See [Members Only page](#) for details.

For the Record

HOTARC Meeting of Members August 22, 2019

President Dwan Needham KE5JWY called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in the W5NCD Workshop Meeting Room.

Bill Feltenberger, KD5UEW gave an invocation.

President Dwan Needham KE5JWY led us in the pledge of allegiance.

15 members were present. 3 visitors were also present: Rusti Smith, Justin Springfield, and Lisa Richardson.

Previous Meeting Minutes. A motion to accept the Minutes from July 25, 2019 published in the HOTLINE was made by Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW, seconded by Ruth Bush KF5PGJ, and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurers Report for July 2019 as published in the HOTLINE was filed.

Committee Reports:

- **ARES.** Ed Hynan announced that he was stepping down as Emergency Coordinator and needed a replacement ASAP. The replacement must be a member of ARRL.
- **Trailer Committee.** John Chamberlain AC5JC moved that the club purchase 2 dual-band antennas for the trailer for \$150, Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Repeater Committee.** All working.
- **Web Committee.** It's working.
- **ATV.** Nothing new.
- **Education Committee.** Nothing new.
- **Public Relations.** No report.
- **Special Events.** We still need more volunteers for the WWW100. We need to purchase 2 radios for the event. Jeb Leutwyler KG5WHS moved that the club purchase two Kenwood TH D72A units for \$390 each plus tax. Bill Feltenberger KD5UEW seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no report on Winter Field Day.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- **Membership.** John Chamberlain AC5JC moved to accept Joe Williford KI5FKB's request to become a Full Member of the Club. Jeb Leutwyler KG5WHS seconded. The motion passed.

Meeting Adjournment. President Dwan Needham KE5JWY adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

After the meeting John Chamberlain AC5JC gave a brief update on the WWW100.

Submitted by
Jeb Leutwyler KG5WHS
HOTARC Secretary

The Treasurer Reports...

Heart O' Texas Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report: August 2019	
Starting Balance August 1	\$9,453.82
Income	
Interest	\$0.08
Dues	\$30.00
Flower Fund	\$15.00
Total Income	\$45.08
Expenses	
PayPal fees	\$(1.59)
Refund of overpayment	\$(15.00)
Total Expenses	\$(16.59)
Ending Balance August 31	\$9,482.31
Uncleared activity (as of 9/22)	
Interest	\$0.08
Dues	\$15.00
PayPal fees	\$(0.63)
Amount in Acct (as of 9/20)	\$9,496.76
includes Flower Fund	\$121.35
Submitted by John Chamberlain, AC5JC HOTARC Treasurer	

ARES Update July 2019

by Ed Hynan, KC5KNI
McLennan County Emergency Coordinator

It is again time for the 2-year ARES data update. This is done every 2 years in order to make sure that data is current and up-to-date.

I am in the initial stages of our ARES data update. This year I need each ARES member to complete a new ARES application – can be found on HOTARC's [ARES web page](#). Once I receive the application, I will make any required changes and issue a new ARES ID Card with a July 2021 expiration date.



Remember, all disaster response is being handled through the **Waco-McLennan County Emergency Management**. If you want to work disaster response, you will need to make an appointment with Elizabeth Thomas at Emergency Management (254-750-5911) for your required **annual background check and documentation of required training**. The basic training requirements are the same as have been required by ARES for involvement in actual disaster response but are now managed by Emergency Management. As I have said before, don't wait until the disaster happens to apply. You will be too late.

As I look over the names of the current ARES members, I see members of HOTARC that are not ARES members. I can't understand why every member of HOTARC is not a member of ARES. The price is right: FREE! All that's required is a valid amateur radio license and a willingness to help. If requested to assist in an event or emergency situation, participation is still voluntary. If you feel that you don't have the time and/or membership conflicts with the job, remember we may face a situation where your job is affected by the emergency, and/or things that normally occupy your time may, in fact, be cancelled! The ARES application asks your availability: 24/7, Nights & Weekends, or General. Pick the one that best suits your schedule.



A real emergency is going to take all the resources that we have, and after the event happens is **NOT** the time to join ARES. Remember those wanting to work disaster response must have completed four of the **FREE** FEMA courses below. (Click the links for more info and start the process today!)

- [IS-700.B \(NIMS\)](#) – Introduction to the National Incident Management System
- [IS-100.C \(ICS\)](#) – Introduction to the Incident Command System
- [IS-200.C \(ICS\)](#) – Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response
- [IS-800.C \(NRF\)](#) – Introduction to National Response Framework

Current Net Control operators are considered major players for disaster response and especially need to have completed the courses. Without these basic courses you will NOT qualify for access to secure and/or restricted locations which, again, are now managed by Emergency Management. Our support will most likely be needed in the Emergency Operations Centers, Incident Command Posts, Police or Fire facilities, and hospitals just to name a few. If you are not a member, go to hotarc.org/ares, fill out an application, send it in, and become a registered ARES member. I also have applications at all club meetings. Links to the FEMA Courses are also provided on the HOTARC web site.

Remember, it is not ****IF**** it will happen, but ****WHEN**** it will occur. As we've said often: It is better to be a small part of the solution rather than a big part of the problem. Get involved! You'll be glad you did.

2019 Waco Wild West is History!

by Clint Anderson AE5CA
HOTARC Special Events Coordinator

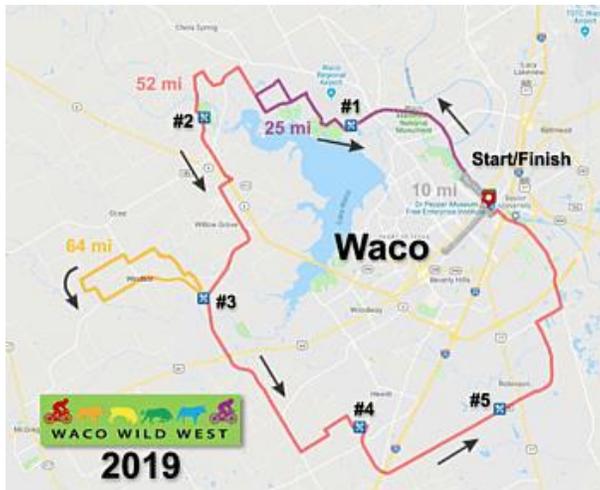
The 2019 Waco Wild West is in the books. I would like to thank everyone that pitched in to make this happen. Whether it was staffing a rest stop, working Net Control, helping with trackers, setting up digipeaters, or working on the trailer. All your help made it possible! Thank you for contributing to [HOTARC's support of this special event](#).



This year's ride had several new twists. The most obvious was **eliminating the 100-mile course**. In addition to greatly simplified staffing and APRS infrastructure, it also meant we were all done about three hours earlier. Rather than waiting for riders to cross the finish line at 5:30 (typical of past years), our Net Control station was taken down and I was *home by 5:30!*

Another significant change this year was **using our 442.875 repeater** (rather than 145.15). It seems we had better coverage all over the course, and rest-stop folks could reliably use an HT to reach Net Control. Even from downtown, I was able to reliably work the repeater using just an HT! 442.875 MHz helped everyone remain connected to Net Control!

This event requires a wide-area digipeater. The W5NCD Bruceville-Eddy tower site is ideally situated and accessible. In years past, a trip to the repeater site a day or two before the event was required to swap antenna connections and power from the W5NCD 147.240 repeater to 147.500 gear (e.g., AC5JC's home digipeater), and after the event, a return trip to restore everything back to normal. Instead, this year, thanks to the **upgraded special events digipeater at the W5NCD tower site**, I simply connected via the internet and turned On the special event digipeater—remotely! W5NCD's repeater and AC5JC's home digipeater both remained undisturbed and online during the event. I was also able to activate and test the special event digipeater weeks before the event. This is a major modernization in capability for HOTARC!



We've learned that APRS special-event tracking works best when available to others via the Internet. That requires uploading real-time APRS data via "I-gates." **Two new digipeater/I-gate systems** were assembled and tested. One was deployed at the KC5UOZ workshop (Rest Stop 3), where it provided solid coverage of trackers moving along the "lollipop portion" of the 64-mile course. The second unit, based on one of HOTARC's new TH-D72a radios, was intended for Rest Stop 5 in Robinson. Lack of volunteers prevented this unit from being installed, but it's ready to go next time!

With the additional I-gates, shorter course, and fewer SAG vehicles, we employed a **higher beacon rate on the APRS trackers**, providing better resolution for each SAG location. We had several cases where Net Control was able to identify a SAG vehicle was located just a few blocks from a rider in distress.

Several new powerful HT's (two TH-D72a's approved for purchased by HOTARC members, two TH-D72a's provided by KC5UOZ and AE5CA, and three AT-D878's) allowed SAG vehicles and lead vehicles to not only **beacon tracking info via APRS, but also monitor all our Net communications**. This added situational awareness prompted several SAG drivers to telephone Net Control to offer their support.

Overall, the quality and performance of the HOTARC gear and manpower this year was superb. WE DID GREAT! I made some notes for things that can be done even better next year. Thanks again to everyone who helped in the 2019 Waco Wild West bike event!

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.
Edited and Published by John Chamberlain AC5JC, AC5JC@arrl.net

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Secretary: Jeb Leutwyler, KG5WHS
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Director (2020): Keith Adams KG5AWC
Director2@hotarc.org
Director (2021): Bill Feltenberger, KD5UEW
Director3@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

The HOTARC VEs are NOT scheduled to offer a test session during September. **Stay tuned for October** testing plans. Test takers will need to provide **1)** testing fee of \$15 (cash only), and **2)** a photo ID (two for first-time licensees). Already licensed amateurs must also provide: **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.

Meeting Notice

HOTARC will hold its monthly *Meeting of Members* at 7:00 PM on Thursday September 26 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!