



"Dits & Dahs"

Volume 3 Number 1
February 2008

The North Richland Hills Amateur Radio club was formed in early 2005 by a group of interested hams in the North Tarrant County area. We are Incorporated in Texas as a 501c3

Corporation. Our Call Sign is **K5NRH**. The NRHARC is an Amateur Radio Club dedicated to supporting Hams in and around North Richland Hills, TX. Our primary focus is to provide valuable training, while promoting Amateur Radio...and to have fun. Although we are not a specialty club, we also help and support the North Richland Hills Office of Emergency Management and Tarrant County RACES with their goals. In addition to our monthly meeting and training classes we meet often for activities such as ARRL Field Day, Club Picnics, and Fox Hunts. We sponsor licensing classes and testing and are continually looking for opportunities to make a difference in the lives of our members and in our community.

Join us for Field Day June 28 –29!

Our feature event of the year is the ARRL Field Day competition. From Friday through Sunday in late June, we'll be participating in that event and it's just around the corner!

The ARRL Field Day in 2008 will be June 28-29, Saturday and Sunday. Field Day is a 24 hour emergency preparedness exercise when hams all across the United States and Canada participate in radio operations while set up in portable or remote locations.

Temporary antennas, emergency power sources, and improvised radio stations are used to contact other portable stations. Most contacts are made on the HF bands using single sideband phone. Contacts are also made using PSK31, CW, FM, satellites, and other digital modes.

In North Richland Hills, we have as much fun setting up as we do working stations on the radios. Using 4 simultaneous transmitters, we will contact as many stations as we can in 24 hours. There is plenty of time for all hams to operate as many hours at each station as you can.

Special treats include the hamburger cookout and pot luck dinner Saturday evening, great overnight snacks, fireworks at night (if nature cooperates), and a visit by a special Scotsman (Brave Heart) on Sunday morning.

In the last 2 years we have increased our score from the year before and plan to increase it again this year. In 2006 we made 616 contacts for 2,568 total points. In 2007 we made 842 contacts for 3,402 total



points. We are planning to go over 4,000 points this year in the 4A category. You can get a preview of Field Day activities at <http://www.arrl.org> under Operating Activities, Contests, Rules. Or Google on: Field Day radio.

Even if you have never operated sideband on HF, plan to be at our Field Day site all 24 hours. Technician Class Hams can operate Field Day, since we'll be using the club call K5NRH and you'll be covered under the control of several Extra Class hams. There will be plenty of operators to get you started. We begin setting up the antennas and stations on Saturday morning and need everyone to help.

73 John Dossey K5GD

General License Class

There will be a class for those wishing to upgrade to the General Class license. The class will be held on the 4 Saturdays in April at the Fire Training facility.

Cost for the class is \$3 class fee for each student plus \$20 for the book (tax included) if you do not have one. You can use your own book if you already have one. The book is: General Class Amateur Radio Element 3 FCC License Preparation by Gordon West. 2nd edition (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007) Stock # GWGM-04, available from <http://www.w5yi.org> under Product catalog - Amateur Radio or other book outlets, including www.amazon.com

Come to the NRHARC club meetings on Monday Feb. 26 or March 24 to pay and reserve your place in the class. Payment may also be mailed (postmarked no later than Mar. 24) to the club address on the web page <http://www.nrharc.org> under Membership. The class will have a maximum of 30 students, first paid, first served. Your place in the class is not reserved until we have received your payment for the class.

President's Thoughts

As you know, this will be my last article as your president. I want to thank all of you for your support the past twelve months. We have had a great year and I hope that this coming year will be even better.

Our club has continued to grow. We have had new members from our Technician classes each January and July and also hams in the area who you have invited to our meetings or were informed or learned of our presence through other organizations. We just finished another successful Technician class and we are looking forward to our second General License class this April.

Field Day was a great time. We did better in our scoring and we also improved our position in the standings for 4A stations because of it. Thanks to Tom Phillips and his solar/data station, Roger Courtney for the 10M/15M station, Doyle for his 20M station and to Steve Arntz and Ron Boyk for the 40M station. If you were there on either day you could tell where Ron and Steve were because of all the antennas. And I want to again give a special thank you to Mark Guilbert and the Southlake Chick-Fil-A and to Dwan Needham and all who helped her with the meals that kept us going. I really am looking forward to FD 2008 and seeing us better our 2007 performance.

We have had some great programs this past year. I know I have enjoyed them and learned from each of them. We learned about GPSs, APRS, AMSAT and making QSOs via satellites, IRLP and many other topics. I am looking

forward to what John Davis will be lining up for us in the coming months.

And finally, I want to thank the other officers and Board members for there direction and support the past 12 months. I would like to encourage each of you to consider serving our club in the future either as a club officer or as an At-Large board member. You are what makes this club great.

Thank you again for the opportunity I had to serve as your president.

73,
Bob KA5KXT

“Elmers”

An Elmer is an experienced Ham who assists a new ham get experience. It may be showing him or her how to get on the air, helping them put up their first antenna or helping them get ready to upgrade. There are lots of ways to help Amateur Radio (and our club) grow. You've probably got a lot more experience than you think you do. This year, we're going to ask you to help. We're asking you to “adopt” one of the many new hams who've passed their test after one of our classes, or who just show up at a meeting. If you're interested, see one of the Board members at any of the meetings, or drop an email to president@nrharc.org or editor@nrharc.org.

January Training Class Yields 4 New Hams and a New Extra Class Ham!



Our club had another successful Technician training class in January! We met 3 Saturdays in January and tested the first Saturday in February. The results were excellent! Each of the new hams passed the test on their first try! We also have a new Extra Class Ham! Congratulations, guys and gals! A General class is scheduled for Saturdays in April.

New Technician Class Hams	
Marcus Belcher	KE5SPO
Bridget Bersin	KE5SPN
Kristan Kiraly	KE5SPM
William (Len) Stringer III	KE5SPL
New Extra Class Ham	
Dennis Paul	AE5GA

VE Testing

Ham testing sessions are held monthly on the Saturday following monthly club meetings. Testing will start promptly at 9 am and will be held at Fire Station #4 on Hightower. Signup at the club meeting. VEC Roger Courtney, N5RCS and his team of VEs will conduct the testing for all classes of amateur radio license. Signups at the meeting are required.

Tessa Conference

The spring storm season is coming soon!.

The Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) will collaborate again for the National Storm Conference on **March 8, 2008** at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas. Speakers will deliver presentations on severe weather safety, storm spotter training and in-depth discussions on supercell and tornado meteorology.

One of the event's major elements, the third annual Super Storm Spotter Session, will provide the highest level of training available to storm spotters anywhere in the country. The session will be presented by Ft. Worth NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Woodall.

The annual event is expected to draw nearly 500 attendees, including storm spotters, storm chasers, emergency managers, forecasters, researchers, educators, and students from across the US.

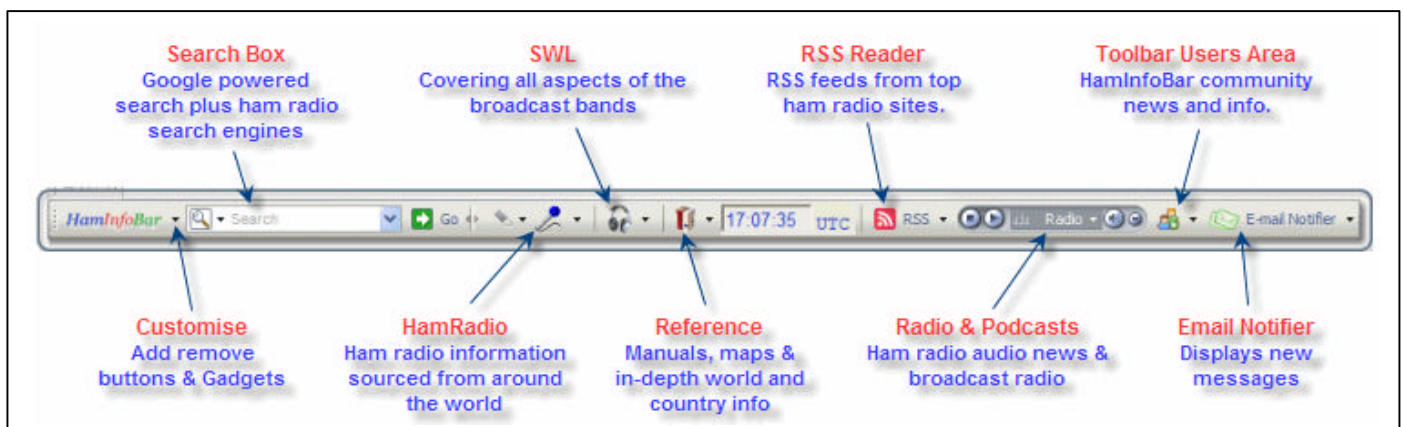
The Super Storm Spotter Session will begin in the morning and will be followed by additional presentations in the afternoon. The conference is free and open to the public. Seating is limited to 500. Get there early!
<http://www.tessa.org/meeting.html>

You might be a ham if...

- ?? You use Penetrox instead of Vick's Vapo-rub for a chest cold
- ?? Nervous tic means worrying about your ring rotator
- ?? You make your candy and snack selections based on whether they come in a box you can use for a building project
- ?? Your eyes detect antennas a mile away behind trees - in the dark
- ?? You are perfectly happy listening to broadcast stations obscured by static, sky-wave, and mobile flutter. You barely even notice!
- ?? Your wedding gift registry is at Ham Radio Outlet
- ?? Santa never asked you as a youngster to "not be quite so technical"
- ?? No appliance is ever discarded at your house with a perfectly good power cord still attached
- ?? The nifty recipe holder the kids made you winds up on the workbench as a soldering aid
- ?? You can with dispatch a flying insect with one well-aimed squirt of Freeze Mist
- ?? Hitchhikers open the passenger door, take one look, and close the door again
- ?? "Temporary" really means "Until I die or we move"

Thanks to Ward Silver, N0AX

Interesting ham link "HamInfoBar" : <http://www.haminfo.com>
Check it out. There's a huge amount of ham radio information, data and applications.



73s from Dwan

Wow ~ I can not believe that the year is up already. It seems as though we just got started with planning out the year and the programs we were going to have, Field Day and all the organization that takes and now, it's time to say Thank You for a wonderful experience and a wonderful year.

I want to congratulate all the new HAMS that I have seen pass their test this past year and yea! to Ben's girlfriend Chris. Most of all I want to congratulate all the women (in addition to Chris) that passed their Technician's test. I am so excited to see more and more women take on our hobby whether it's for CERT, RACES or just for the fun of it. Now, I just hope they will get more active with our happy little club. Come on ladies, it's one of the best ways to practice what we learned in class, besides it's fun giving the men a hard time (but be prepared they give it right back-right Monty?).

This past year, I had the privilege to serve with an awesome board that was not only fun, but so intelligent on our hobby that I was in awe being around them at times. Then there were other times that they kept me rolling in my chair. To you gentlemen I salute you. It's been fun getting to know each and everyone of you and I will miss our monthly breakfast. Thanks too for being patient with me when I would ask you to repeat what was said when I was taking notes.

To the new board, some of you have done this before and are gluttons for punishment. I'm joking of course...I want to wish you all the best in the year(s) to come and look forward to your fearless leadership. I hope that the new members will follow your lead and see that when it's your time to step down, that they will want to pick up the gauntlet and see that it's not that hard taking the reins and guiding us in the direction that

we need to go. Well I know one thing for sure, I look forward to this next year and how our club continues to grow. One last thing to the members, please don't be bashful or afraid to get involved in our club. We need each and everyone of you to get involved with the club, come on jump on in, the water's fine, but don't tell anyone....it's fun!! Oh and no you aren't getting ride of me...I'll see everyone at the meetings and other events that we will be sharing.

Dwan Needham KE5JWY
Secretary 2007

The K5NRH net operates on Monday evenings at 7:00 on 145.37. Join us!

Check out the NRHARC net on Monday nights. Tune your rig to the 145.37 repeater. This net meets every Monday at 7:00 PM Central Time on this repeater except the fourth Monday of each month when the North Richland Hills Amateur Radio Club has their Club meeting. The alternate frequency for this net is 146.580 MHz FM simplex. That gives us a chance to see what our emergency coverage is if the repeaters are down. Be prepared, we may switch to that frequency during a net. The main purpose of this net is to provide a forum for the NRHARC members and other hams to participate in a net to increase their communications skills and become familiar with net operations.

This is a directed net open to all amateurs. All calls are made to the Net Control station. During the net, and at the direction of the net control operator, hams may seek help with relevant Ham radio problems, share an experience, list equipment for sale or trade and make announcements in addition to the net training. We invite all Hams to check in and we thank the owner of this repeater for its use for this training net. Finally, we're looking for net controllers.

NRHARC Club Name Tags



If you don't already have an 'official' NRHARC name tag, you can order one at the SignMan's web site at

<http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/others.html>

Choose "North Richland Hills ARC - TX" from the drop down list. They've updated their site and our club now has its own page.

Club badges are \$10 each plus shipping. Thanks to the SignMan of Baton Rouge for offering this service.

NRHARC Officers 08-09		
President	Dave Routzon	W5GT
Vice President	John Davis	WA5RHF
Secretary	John Dossey	K5GD
Treasurer	Doyle Hardy	K5HTE
Education Officer	Glenn Thompson	KE4HZG
Emergency Coordinator	Hugh Underwood	KC5EPF
Board Member	Bob Norris	KA5KXT
Board Member	Ron Boyk	N5QV
Board Member	Norm Turnage	WA5CDF

Regular monthly NRHARC club meetings

Held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the NRH Fire Department Training Room which is located at:

**7202 Dick Fisher Drive
North Richland Hills, TX 76180**

Driving Directions: From Rufe Snow, go east on Mid Cities and then south on Dick Fisher (at the flashing yellow lights)

Monthly board meetings: are held 2 Saturdays before the fourth Monday of each month at 9:00 AM at Tucker's Restaurant located at:

**5249 Davis Blvd.
North Richland Hills, TX 76180**

Everyone is welcome to attend

Contact any Officer at
WWW.NRHARC.ORG

Upcoming Events 2008

February 28 Meeting – Elections
March 8 – Tessa Conference
April Saturdays – General Class training
April / May meetings – FD Preparation
June 13 – 14 - Hamcom (Plano)
June 28 –29 Field Day

Please send comments and ideas for future articles to:
editor@nrharc.org

Dave W5GT