



"Dits & Dahs"

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.

This is Field Day 2008!

Our feature event of the year is the ARRL Field Day competition. We're participating in that event and it's here!

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, and a visit by a special Scotsman (Brave Heart) on Sunday morning (he may be sitting this year). 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. Also check out the new GOTA station where everyone can make a contact.

73 John Dossey K5GD

Technician License Class

There will be a class for those wishing to get started in Ham radio with a Technician Class license. The class will be held on the first 4 Saturdays in August at the Fire Training facility. We'll test at the conclusion of the last class.

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: Technician Class Amateur Radio Element 2 FCC License Preparation by Gordon West (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010) Stock # GWTM, available from <http://www.w5yi.org> under Product catalog - Amateur Radio or other book outlets, including www.amazon.com

Sign up today at Field Day, or the first class on Saturday August 2nd to pay and reserve your place in the class. Payment may also be mailed (postmarked no later than July 23rd) 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.

Spouses, children, and neighbors will better understand your cash expenditures, hours spent in a dark room and aluminum arrays on the roof if they too have their ham licenses. I myself will be persuading (pressuring) my wife and daughter to get their licenses.

Take this opportunity to share your hobby with those around you; get them to sign up for the next Technician class!" Drop Harry Monck an email if you're interested. HMONCKIV@aol.com

President's Thoughts

I'm really excited about what's going on with our club! As I write this, it's about a month before Field Day 2008 and John Wayne Dossey, our amazing FD chairman, and his team (all of us) are hard at work getting ready. Our objective as it has been every year is to have fun, gain operational experience and beat last year's score. When you get this newsletter, we'll be right in the middle of Field Day and you'll be able to see what our club is about.

There are a number of club activities that will help make NRHARC a premier club in this area. One that you'll be hearing about soon is our Scholarship program. We have 3 High Schools in North Richland Hills; Birdville, Richland and Haltom. We hope to be able to sponsor a \$500 (or more) scholarship to a graduating senior from one of these schools in 2009. We're trying to encourage these kids to major in technology in college and hopefully, get into ham radio. We sincerely hope that you will consider contributing to a scholarship...your donation is tax deductible. Give checks and cash to Doyle Hardy, our Treasurer.

On another note, our club is growing and you can help. We had standing room only at our April meeting. Think about who you haven't seen at club meetings in awhile. Invite them to come back. Also consider who among your friends and family you might like to bring into Ham Radio. We're running a Technician Class late in August. We teach for 4 consecutive Saturday mornings and test on the last. We've had almost a 100% success rate in the last 3 years of Tech Classes.

Our club will be putting further emphasis on disaster preparedness starting after Field Day. We're planning a simulated emergency test in the Fall where people can gain experience reporting weather or other emergency situations to a simulated Emergency Operations Center. We'll be setting up a simulated Emergency Operations location where potential controllers can get experience running a net. Practicing Net communications and procedures in a non-pressure environment can help our club and you be ready when a real emergency occurs. Emergencies don't just include severe weather, but can also include hazardous material spills and other problems that impact our city and its people.

Finally, we're always looking for ideas for club activities and meetings. Potential subjects for upcoming meetings include presentations on antennas, storm spotting, batteries and Incident command courses IS-100 and IS-700 (National Incident Management System). We're also considering a family dinner or picnic in the Fall and a Special Event station. Let me know if you have any ideas or would like to give a presentation at a club meeting.

Dave Routzon – W5GT

RACES and NRHARC

One of the primary purposes for the NRH Amateur Radio Club is to support the city of North Richland Hills in emergency situations. When weather conditions become severe, or another local emergency exists, please check in with your availability to the NRH

Emergency net on 145.37. You do not need to be a RACES member to check in. The net controller, who is in the NRH EOC (Emergency Operations Center), will state "The North Richland Hills Emergency net is now operational and requesting check-ins" or words to that effect.

Another indicator of such an emergency is the activation of the RACES Net on 146.94 in Fort Worth (pl 110.9). Once in RACES mode, that net is for RACES members only. However, you can listen. The Net controller will generally say "This is a RACES directed net" or words such as that, and the Morse code "R" (..) will be transmitted in the background.

You should have your Mapsco location ready when you report into the NRH net. That's the grid coordinate found in the Mapsco street guides. For example, mine is 38N (page 38 - grid square N of the Fort Worth Mapsco). That gives the net controller the area of concern. For police or fire officials, the street address or nearest intersection is of course important. During emergencies, these officials or their representatives and the NRH 911 center are in the same room as the EOC controller.

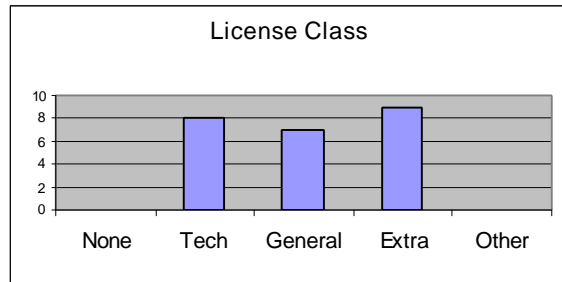
Our club can be a valuable resource to the city under such circumstances with reports of street flooding, hail, trees down, power outages and other related situations. But we can only do that if you check in on .37. If you've never used this machine, there is no PL tone required and your handheld or mobile rig should automatically shift down 600 kc on transmit. Checking in to the weekly NRHARC net on Mondays at 7 pm will get you experience on the .37 machine

and with directed nets. Whether you're mobile or at home, please check in! 73s

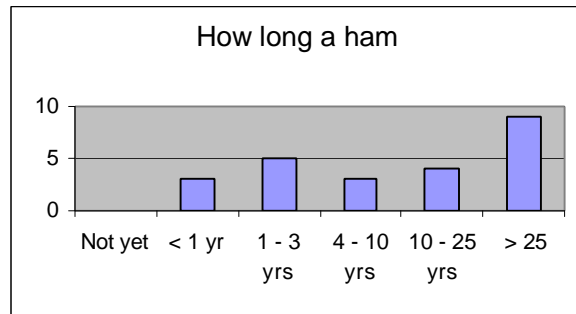
Survey Results

Many of you participated in our annual club survey. It's good to hear from you with your opinions on how our club is doing and where it's going. We'll do this again periodically. Here are some of the results.

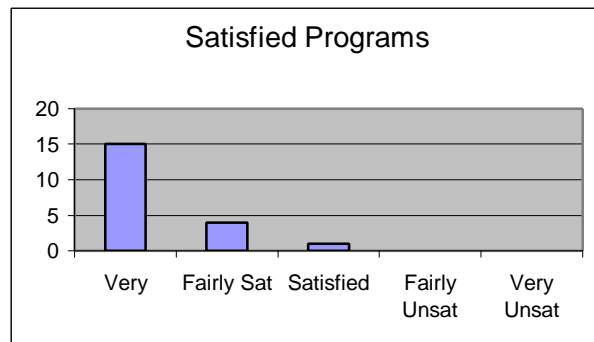
License Class We have a pretty good mix of experienced and new hams. Out Technician and General classes seem to be paying off.



How Long a Ham Once again, as with most clubs, we have a lot of experienced hams. However, it's encouraging that our club also has a lot of newer hams.



Satisfied with Programs You seem to be satisfied with our programs. We'll endeavor to keep that record up and would be glad to hear from you with your suggestions.





April Training Class Yields 6 New General Class Hams!

Our club had another successful General training class in April! We met 3 Saturdays in April and tested the 4th Saturday of April. Ham! Congratulations, guys and gal! A Technician class is scheduled for Saturdays in August.

New General Class Hams	
Mike Faschingbauer	KB7RMG
Max Miller	KE7NSV
Harry Monck	KE5MLV
Jeffrey Roberson	N5XHI
Margaret (Jean) Belton	KE5MLT
James Osborn	WB8WDC

THE DX CORNER

By Dave Routzon – W5GT

Well, one year ago in this column, I was bemoaning the lack of sunspots. Conditions were poor, but DX stations were still available. If you had asked me then, I would have said that the upswing would have started last Fall. It didn't. In fact, here we are in June of 2008 and the sunspots still have not returned! If anything, conditions are worse than they were at this time last year. Many days go by with only a few stations in the Caribbean and South America even heard.

There are a few DX stations still out there. I've worked Turkey TA3D and New Zealand ZL1BD on 20 and Norfolk Island VK9ANU, Australia VK2ATZ, Tonga A35RK, Vanuatu YJ8TX on 15 and New Zealand ZM2M on 15 and 10 meters. Most of those were worked in the ARRL DX Contest in late March. Most days, however, Europe can't even be heard.

The secret these days is *patience*. First, check www.spaceweather.com and the QSL site page <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/propagation.html> and see what's going on with the sun. Sunspots are and have been zero for many days and in fact, many months. Here's what it looks like today.



Note that there is activity. There are no spots, but flares and other areas of activity are there. The key is that the SFI (Solar Flux Index) is still in the 60s. That's crucial and says that the activity isn't sufficient to really ionize the atmosphere. The F2 layer needs as much ionization as possible to reflect (refract) your signal.

Another secret as I've said many times is getting your antenna in shape. If you can put up a 70' tower with a 4 element monobander on 20, go for it! If you can put up a vertical in the back yard, go for

it, but spend these “quiet” days putting down more and more radials to get the ground losses down. If you can only put a dipole in the attic, do that, but spend a lot of time trimming it for low swr and use low loss coax or ladder line. As we did last month, bring your layout to the club meeting and let someone work with you to figure out an antenna layout. Finally, keep checking the posts on <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/> and see what’s out there and who’s posting it. If the VU’s (India) are being posted, see if anyone in the US is posting them. Chances are these days it’s the Japanese or Europeans doing the posting and you won’t even hear the Europeans.

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.

Wanted EOC Controllers!

Sean Hughes, the Emergency Coordinator for North Richland Hills has asked that our club help the town with more Emergency Operation Center controllers.

In emergency conditions, hams from our club share the EOC room with police and fire dispatchers and take reports from other club members reporting about street flooding, hail, power outages, etc.

This is a critical need, so if you can help, please drop me an email at president@nrharc.org.

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	Harry Monck	KE5MLV
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 generally held 2 Saturdays before the fourth Monday of each month at 9:00 AM at Flapjack's Restaurant located at:

**5344 Rufe Snow Dr.
North Richland Hills, TX 76180**

Everyone is welcome to attend

Contact any Officer at
WWW.NRHARC.ORG

Upcoming Events 2008

June meeting – at Field Day

June 28 –29 - Field Day

July 21 – Tidelands ARS

July 28 – club meeting

Aug 1-2 – Austin Summerfest

Aug 24 – club meeting

Oct 11 – Paris Texas Radio Group

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

Dave W5GT