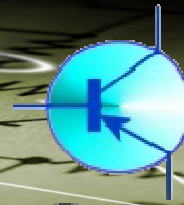


The HomeBrew



DECEMBER 2008

ENID OKLAHOMA

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 12

WSHTK MEETINGS

The Enid ARC meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. Meeting location is at the Cimarron Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 1023 W. Elm, Enid Ok.

NET

Join us each Monday night at 8pm on the 145.290- repeater for the Enid ARC Monday night net.

Visit us on the web at

www.enidarc.org

or

Contact us at

w5htk@enidarc.org

EARC 2009 Officers

President

Jess Andrews-KA5HYK
580-237-3686

V. President

Tim McAnally-KD5KTB
580-234-0948

Secretary

Bill Keck-K5ECI
580-233-2496

Treasurer

Devon McAnally-KD5UID
580-237-3218

Trustee

Dean Feken-KL7MA
580-336-3326

EARC 2009 Board of Directors (Classified by last year of term)

2008

Mike Cofer KD5OFF (V.
Chairman)

2009

Greg Veit KD5MFY

2010

Dean Feken KL7MA

2011

Al Fox KD5BA (Chairman)

2012

Richard Herndon KD5ZOY

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So Long, Farewell, and Amen

For those of you old enough, you might recognize the title from the TV series M*A*S*H® that aired back in the late 70's and early 80's. It ran for 11 seasons and was a labor of love for the stars and directors involved. The HomeBrew hasn't been in print for nearly as long and doesn't have the huge following of the TV show, but this will allow me a way to convey some of my feelings about the newsletter.

The HomeBrew was an outlet for my "creative" side and I have loved doing it. The support that I got from club members and complete strangers was what kept me going for four years and I want you to know how much I appreciated it. However, like all things in life, changes are inevitable and The HomeBrew isn't immune to them.

I have decided that this will be the last issue of my newsletter.

What brought me to this decision was the response I received from a poll I took in last month's issue. I asked for comments about whether to keep the newsletter going and from the 61 e-mail accounts that I deliver the newsletter to, I heard back from 13. This in itself indicated to me that The HomeBrew had run its course. Interest in the newsletter or readers limited time showed that most of my "subscribers" weren't reading the monthly issues. There is no one to blame and I certainly appreciate the positive comments that I did get, but I think that with my own time constraints and just having difficulty coming up with an issue each month it is time to call it quits. I hope that in some small way The HomeBrew made a contribution to the members of the Enid Amateur Radio Club and others who read it.

I do want to send a special thank you to Al Fox/KD5BA for being a major contributor to the newsletter from the beginning. He started by writing a president's corner each month and then continued with The Fox's Den. It was his writings that added the persona touch to The HomeBrew. I also would like to thank Dave Locke/KC5SII for his contributions during his term as president.

It has been a fun ride but it is time to put this little newsletter to bed.

73 my friends,
Mike Cofer/KD5OFF

The HomeBrew

The *HomeBrew* is a monthly newsletter about the *Enid Amateur Radio Club*. It is available in both print and electronic form. The printed version can be found at *Wheat Capital Communications* 306 W. Willow, Enid Ok. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed on the second Thursday of each month. It is also available on the *EARC* website at <http://www.enidarc.org/>.

To submit an article or place an ad for equipment, e-mail the editor at thehomebrew@hotmail.com. Submissions need to be received by the second Monday of each month for publication.

The views contained in The *HomeBrew* are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the *Enid Amateur Radio Club*.

HomeBrew Editor

Mike Cofer-KD5OFF

580-242-2865

thehomebrew@hotmail.com

The Enid Amateur Radio Club

The *Enid Amateur Radio Club (EARC)* was founded in 1936 and was affiliated with the ARRL in 1938. It continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in Enid, Garfield County and the state of Oklahoma. The *EARC* is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization.

The purpose or purposes for which the *EARC* is formed is a non-commercial association of radio amateurs, for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications and experimentation's.

For the advancement of the radio art and for the assistance and education of those who are interested in the theory, fundamentals, and operation of Amateur Radio.

For the maintenance of emergency communication facilities, to aid in times of disasters and emergencies to those in need as a public service, and to make said communication facilities available without cost.

Article Four of the EARC Articles of Incorporation

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$25 per year (Jan-Dec) for individuals. Family membership is \$30 per year. Membership dues can be mailed to:

Enid Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 261
Enid Ok. 73702

The Enid Amateur Radio Club shall not discriminate against race, creed, national origin, or sex for eligibility for membership.

From the

Fox's Den

Reminders, musings and ramblings!



Al Fox/KD5BA

Many thanks for those who turned out to help with the ELUP fireworks. I am sorry I missed it but thankful that Jess stood in for me. I ate too much good food celebrating in Thanksgiving in Ada, Lawrence, KS and Topeka, KS. I plan on more good food at the Club Christmas meeting at the Golden Corral.

Now on to the serious business (boy two issues in a row). It seems too often we take for granted the time and effort that goes into things that impact our ham experience.

Our repeaters are serviced and kept on the air with a lot of extra work. We don't think about it 'til the repeater acts up. But that same behind the scenes work gets it back up and running with little thought to who or how it was serviced. The same goes for our club newsletter, The HomeBrew. The editor researches, lays out the paper, types up editorials and puts up with tin horn "columnists. We don't think how much effort and time goes into producing such a professional newsletter. Like the repeater work it is just there. I am guilty of not reading every issue when it comes out. I know I have fallen behind. But I do save them all and they will be read! I for one would sure miss it if it wasn't there just as I would miss the repeaters if they weren't there.

The events co-ordinator goes to a lot of meetings and endures a lot of frustration when everyone doesn't share his enthusiasm for the public service events. So he can share the feelings of ""why bother?" If we want to continue having repeaters on which to talk or a great newsletter that is envied by many other clubs or keep the hams in the public eye so they know we are not C.B.ers we need to support the repeater committee, club newsletter editor and public service events! Just like "use it or lose it" in regard to frequencies the same goes for the aforementioned. Support them or they might go away.

Ham radio isn't a great hobby?!!!

Let's keep that way by showing our support.

73,

Al KD5BA

FCC Requests Ham's Technical Aid in Education on DTV

We have received a request by the FCC for members of the ARRL to provide technical educational assistance to their communities during January and February in accomplishing the digital TV conversion. Clubs are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information about the DTV conversion in their areas in ways they think best fits their community. Each community is a little different, so your plans may vary. Let your Section Manager know your group is willing to help out.

Hams should *not* make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations -- the request is only to distribute technical information and their materials. As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available at <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html>. Beginning early January, FCC staff will contact Section Managers and leaders of interested clubs and, where possible, arrange to meet for sharing even more information, A/V and printed materials and training aids with the clubs in this effort.

We know the time is short and problematic, (not our choice) but your aid in this now will be appreciated.

In early January, Section Managers will be asked for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. FCC staff will then make contact with them, learn their plans, and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials your group may need in this effort. Materials also can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html>. FCC regional staff may even come and visit with larger groups to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions. The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow us to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband.

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As we discussed, our goal is to engage on a cooperative basis the amateur community to help with the DTV outreach and educate consumers on how to install a converter box and how to set it up. We also discussed the possibility of amateur groups providing technical advice by telephone to consumers who may encounter difficulty with the installation and setting up of their converter box. Any assistance that you can arrange through the ARRL Section Managers will greatly help in the efforts of the FCC to ensure a smooth transition to DTV on February 17, 2009."
- George Dillon, FCC

The FCC will provide participating groups with news releases, audio clips (mp3 files) and announcement templates for them to use in local media in preparation of the activities. FCC will also provide clubs with educational video, PowerPoints and similar visual materials.

As you plan, remember this is for technical educational help only. At no time should the hams enter someone else's home or be installers in this; nor should they broker or sell conversion boxes in any way. Clubs can provide such things as a call in telephone number for technical help, make presentations at meetings, demos at malls, talks to other groups -- whatever works in their community. Local over-the-air broadcasters should be most interested in this activity, making it easier to get TV publicity about it. Other non-profit, volunteer groups are also being asked to help out, so this is also a chance to do some organizational networking.

Some groups are already coming up with plans, such as:

"I think a simple class at the community senior citizens centers would be great! Those things are everywhere all over the country. A large number of seniors could be taught to go out into the community. Many of these people are looking for something to do. Nothing wrong with hams acting as consultants and getting some good press from it."

Or how about contacting the local coordinators for Meals on Wheels and teaching their delivery volunteers what to look for in shut-ins still needing conversion units? Or the local Visiting Nurses?

How about having an ARES drill in which your teams go looking for over-the-air TV antennas and note the addresses. Later you can hand out or send info to those locations.

One group is planning to be in their community auditorium with some converters and talk about how to hook them up.

Others are working with their weathermen/women, knowing that in a storm a lot of people look to TV for information.

Why not make a display with the FCC's materials -- but also be sure to have your local club info out too! You just might get some new prospects!

"Go on a talk-TV segment to demo creating a DIY antenna from coat hangars, to show what a 'paper tiger' the need for a spendy antenna is.." And a similar comment, "Just letting everyone know that the DIGITAL READY antenna that the box stores sell for \$130 is the same as the old analog antenna that you can get for \$50, this lets people know that you are sincere in your presentation."

Each group is encouraged to think of ways to aid their community in this that work best in your own areas. If not with a store or call-in deal there, that's OK. These are just some starting suggestions. C'mon, Get creative!

There is not enough time left for articles in QST, the national magazine. But there is precedent of getting the word out quickly to clubs for a special need. After all, we're "communicators."

Courtesy of the ARRL Club Newsletter <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/10/10499/>

The Enid Amateur Radio Club (EARC)
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING
November 20, 2008
American Red Cross Building, Enid, OK

NOTE: THIS IS AN UNAPPROVED DRAFT

The Enid Amateur Radio Club met Thursday evening, November 20, 2008, at the American Red Cross Building, Enid, OK. Club president Jess/KA5HYK called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members present: Jess/KA5HYK, Phil/K5ECH, Ron/WD5HUT, Sam/KD5EUS, Mike/KD5OFF, Al/KD5BA, Tony/KE5KWN, Bill/K5ECI, Dave/KC5SII, Tim/KD5KTB, Dan/KE5PQY, Darien/KE5NQQ, Greg/KD5MFY, Dave/AD8B, Bill/KC5OKG. Guest: John Hodgson/KE5WGV.

M/S/C to approve the minutes of October meeting upon correction: the Club HF rig, not the 2M rig, is controlled by remote computer.

Tim presented the Treasurer's report informally on behalf of Devon. No changes from October report.

Correspondence: 1) Letter of appreciation to PB industries, citing the Club status as a 501(c)3 organization (TIN 73-1622387) confirmed by the IRS in a letter (#4168C) dated 16 September 2008, referring to an original letter of determination dated July 2002; 2) Thank you note for hospital flowers from Miller family and Della Mondick, received prior to death of W5REC; 3) Voided personal check from Della Mondick for \$41, dated January 2008, intended for W5REC memorial.

Jess asked Bill/K5ECI to work with Mike/KD5OFF to find and organize Club records.

Old Business---

Greg/KD5MFY, with Mike/KD5OFF and Tim/KD5KTB reported that the annual inventory of Club property was complete and that a hard copy of their report would be coming. Discussion but no decision on how to post report for review by members. The report will inform insurance decisions to be made by December 1st. The report on the fiscal records review will not be ready until the December meeting.

The memorial plaque for W5REC(SK) is still being prepared. Informal agreement to keep the W5REC ARES station in the Club radio room (rather than in the storage unit.)

M/S/C to provide a plaque recognizing the contribution of tower funds by Kenneth L Romine/K5VCH. The plaque will be similar to the one being prepared for W5REC and will be placed in or near the EARC radio room (rather than outside on the tower.) Ken received the vanity call K5VCH in 1996. His previous call was WB5ZOK.

The December meeting of the EARC will be part of the Club's Christmas dinner, Saturday, December 6th, 6:00 p.m. at Golden Corral, Enid. The main item of business will be the installation of 2009 Club officers. Informal agreement to invite Ottis Cornelsen and Della Mondick to be special guests of the Club at this gathering.

Tim/KD5KTB, Greg/KD5MFY, Mike/KD5OFF and others reported major strides toward the goal of making the EARC radio room functional and presentable. Much of the gear and accessories are now stored across the street from the Red Cross building. The gate and door are armed (code); a key to the storage unit is in Red Cross office.

New Business—

"Light Up the Plains"---Jess/KA5HYK will be the coordinator/NCS this year. Al/KD5BA provided an overview of the event. The Club role will be public safety—specifically crowd and traffic control around the perimeter of the fireworks launch zone. One volunteer needed per barricade; so at least six. Meet at Mark Price Arena at 6:00 p.m. Use the 147.375 repeater.

2008 Hamfest report---This was the 20th annual Enid Hamfest sponsored by the Enid Hamfest Group, and coordinated by Tom/N5LWT and Jeff/N5UBY. Greg/KD5MFY reported Club table cash sales of \$280, plus an additional \$250 for the sale of a club HF rig (Kenwood TS-430S to Jess/KA5HYK) and the trade of

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donated equipment for 500 feet of hard line (estimated value \$1500.) A few donated components were retained for Club use. These include a UHF rig that may provide spare parts, and a VHF/UHF antenna. Volunteers to help with unloading and loading equipment were scarce, so informal agreement to schedule adequate help next year. Also next year the Club could be asked---or should volunteer---to help manage access to the event to avert the problem of non-paid entry.

School Outreach --- No further developments to report regarding the Club's request for a grant from the Enid Community Foundation. Mike/KD5OFF reported a conversation with Mike/KE5WZY of Kingfisher, a newly licensed (Technician) amateur who is interested in setting up a youth station, perhaps as part of the city library program. The Pond Creek-Hunter high school club (KE5OGQ) continue to thrive and grow. Its teen net meets each Tuesday evening on the EARC 145.290 repeater.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mike/KDZ5OFF played an audio recording of "Repeaterism" once used by The Central Ohio Radio Club/WR8ABV to remind users (in Ten Commandments style) of the protocol of repeater use.

M/S/C to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Keck, K5ECI
Club Secretary