

THE EULESS REPEATER

NEWSLETTER OF THE EULESS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Special points of interest:

- Club Meeting on the Air, January 25, 2011, 8:00 pm on 442.900, PL 110.9+
- Club Social, Monday, January 10, at Raven's Grill at Texas Star Golf Course 7:00 pm
- January club meeting January 12, 2011, 7:00 pm, location is the Eules EOC
- Every Sunday 1:00 pm Eules ARC HF round table 7178.5

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| New Year | 1 |
| New Officers | 1 |
| January | 1-2 |
| Tech-Talk | 2 |
| New Repeater | 2-3 |
| Contesting | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 4 |

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2011

A New Year and a New Direction

An Editorial Comment

2011 brings new opportunities to the Eules Amateur Radio Club. We have a new repeater, a new web site, new radio equipment, new officers and a new direction. All this newness is being brought to you by the following hard working and dedicated people:

President: Richard Pongratz, K5SHT
Vice President: James Knighton, WJ2K
Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Shanahan, KE5KPC
Emergency Coordinator: Al Simmenroth, KE5CNW
Net Control Coordinator: Archie Blanchard, K5ABZ
Repeater/Call Sign Trustee: Chris Shanahan, KE5KPC
Newsletter Editor: Richard Pongratz, K5SHT
Police Department/City Liaison: Joe Kraft, KE5DUP

Our primary goal for this year is to provide amateur radio related experiences that are interesting, educational and fun for the whole family. We have a new repeater and a stronger signal, so coverage is greatly improved.

In addition to our usual emergency preparedness work and providing volunteers for special events, our concentration this year will be on HF events operations from 160 to 6 meters, QRO to QRP, project building, net

operation, contesting, as well as teaching and sharing the information and experiences that make our hobby more enjoyable.

The key word will be "fun". We have a lot we want to do for you, so bring your ideas and experiences to the January *Amateur Radio Eules* radio club meeting and get reacquainted with all those hams you haven't seen for a while, and all those projects you haven't done for a while.

In addition to new monthly programs, which you will determine, there will be show-and-tell events, swap meets, and other activities at the meetings. So, come by and see what we have in store for you. We'll put a pot of coffee on for you.

January Presentation *(continued on page 2)*

QRP will be the focus for our first presentation this year. Dick Pongratz, K5SHT, will be talking about the joys of QRP, with demonstrations of equipment, antennas and techniques for enjoyable QRP operation.

He will be bringing Elecraft, Yeasu, Miracle and

Icom QRP transceivers, tuners and antennas, to show you just how it is done and how much fun it can be to operate with the wild life, and on the move, without the burden of bulky, heavy equipment, and without the static, noise and interference of civilized life created by all



the wall-warts, power supplies and appliances that you find in high-density living developments.



Wild turkey visitors while operating near Bear Creek Park in Crowley, Texas

To find out more about QRP:

Low Power Communication . The Art and Science of QRP. by Richard Arland, K7SZ
(ARRL Press)

Low Profile Amateur Radio. Operating a Ham Station from Almost Anywhere.
by Al Brogdon, W1AB
(ARRL Press)

January Presentation *(continued from front page)*

Learn about the emergency communications aspects and capabilities of QRP, as well as all the fun aspects. On a family picnic in the park, see how easy it is to pack your entire radio station in a picnic basket, along with the food, and be able to make those contacts on 80, 40, 20 or 10 meters with only a two minute setup time.

We will trace the roots of QRP/ Clandestine radio operation from the development of spy radios used by MI6, Section VIII and the SIS of the British Intelligence operations during World War II, and the French resistance movements that fought against the German occupation of France, to the present day's fascination of hams with clandestine radio.

All other QRP'ers are invited to bring, show and talk about their equipment and experiences. The more the merrier. This will be a show and tell and "play-with" event, so be sure to come to the January ARE club

meeting and bring a friend or family member.

Learn how to pack light and small for that next expedition into the wild. Meet joggers and walkers in the park who are curious about what you are doing, and are the makings of future hams.

Below is the Elecraft KX1 transceiver kit I am building, so if it is far enough under way by show time, I will bring it along for show and tell. It measures only 3 x 5 inches by 1 inch thick, has its own internal tuner and keyer, and fits in any picnic basket. And, it's an easy to build kit!



Tech-Talk *(a short section about what some of the terms used in the newsletter articles actually mean)*

QRP: Low power, usually 5 watts or less, most QRP'ers are operating 2 to 4 watts. Q-Signals are usually only used when sending Morse Code, or when referring to another's or one's own power limit operation. With Morse code, the request to change power is "PSE QRP" when asking someone to lower their power. Yes, you can work DX using QRP.

QRO: High power, usually near the legal limit. Again, when asking someone, who is using code, to increase their power, you send "PSE QRO". (Note: 20 watts is not QRP and 200 watts is not QRO. Most radios are designed for 100 watts operation)

It's Your New Newsletter...



2011 brings a new Newsletter. We intend to keep you informed, entertained and educated regarding ham radio events and operations. The Newsletter will be posted on our new website that Chris Shanahan, our WebMaster, KE5KPC, is modifying and expanding as we speak. Therefore, we need your information for submission.

Tell us about any interesting events, what you did, include all the details and photographs and we will get you edited

and in print. Write an article about an aspect of ham radio that interests you, or send me topics you would like to learn about.

Send your information, with "Newsletter" in the subject line, to my attention at K5SHT@arrl.net. You don't have to write the article, just send me the information and we will get it put together for you.

Email any photos in Jpeg or similar format that I can edit, crop and size, using PC or low resolution graphics. If you are not sure about something, just send it and we will see what we can do with it.

Repeater Makes History

In December of 2010 the new Kenwood Repeater was installed and became operational, through the efforts of Joe Kraft, KE5DUP, Euless Police Department Liaison, Gary Gregg, KD5TDC, IT Department with the Euless Police Department, and Chris Shanahan, KE5KPC, Repeater Trustee. These good folks got it purchased, installed, powered up, programmed and talking. We very much appreciate Gary for stepping in and lending an important helping hand with the programming to make this all happen.

Remember those famous words, "**What we've got here is failure to communicate**", that line from the 1967 film *Cool Hand Luke*? Well, not any more. In addition to hitting all of our formerly dead zones, our new repeater actually talks. By now you have probably heard it.

At each 10 minute required identification period a lovely sounding young lady announces the time, followed by an official sounding gentleman announcing the repeater call sign. It also now



automatically charges its own battery backup system.

Our brand new out of the box Kenwood TKR-850 has features we have yet to explore. It has increased our output power from around 4 watts with the old repeater to 35 watts on our new one, and you can tell it. Also it has much better ears. Sensitivity is such that it can pick up my signal when I am mobile and located in the front of Hulen

Mall in west Fort Worth.

We have not tested it to see how far north, south and east it will work, but we should be getting some reports soon. So, if you hear someone giving out their call and "just monitoring", give them a call back, get a radio check, and help us see how far we are actually covering.

Contesting / RadioSport (See ARRL's Contest Calendar for details)

January 1, 2011—ARRL Straight Key Night
 January 1, 2011—Original QRP Contest
 January 2, 2011—Kids Day
 January 8, 2011—North American QSO Party
 January 8, 2011—Michigan QRP Club January Contest
 January 8, 2011—ARRL RTTY Roundup
 January 8, 2011—070 PSK-31 Festival

January 9, 2011—Midwinter QSO Party
 January 15, 2011—North American QSO Party
 January 15, 2011—NAQCC Monthly Sprint
 January 15, 2010—International United Teenager Contest
 January 22, 2011—ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
 January 22, 2011—YL ISBB QSO Party
 January 29, 2011—Winter Field Day

Club Meeting on the Air

A New Year, A New Net

Perhaps each of us has not stated audibly that our regular Tuesday Night Net leaves something to be desired, but each of us has no doubt **thought** it.

Any shortcomings it may have cannot be reformed overnight, but we can immediately begin making improvements. It is desirable to have everybody trained to conduct the net. If you volunteer, we'll have someone sit with you as long as you feel you need help, with the ultimate objective to make you very willing to do the job with no reluctance.

It has been suggested that we begin having, rather than the regular Tuesday night net once a month, an **every** Tuesday night net. It's not intended to be an obligation, but a "fun" event. Every aspect of radio should be fun -- this would be no different.

One part of having everybody trained to conduct the net is to take the pressure off of a person who would volunteer often. The volunteer would not feel the total obligation. It would be understood that if the designated net control is a minute or two late starting, someone else already standing by would have a copy of our procedures, and would proceed to conduct the net.

To say that we are open to suggestions is an understatement. Possibly you have the best suggestion the net has ever had, so please let us hear from you.

Archie Blanchard, K5ABZ, Net Control Coordinator

(Editors comments: This newsletter may be released before the next club meeting, when we will discuss this issue. Please come to the meeting and let us hear your comments. Don't start listening for a new weekly net until after January 12.)



The Eules Amateur Radio Club is located inside the Eules police station EOC, at:

**1102 West Eules Blvd,
Eules, Texas**

Useful Links

10-10 International

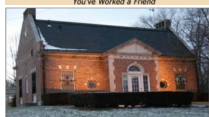
www.ten-ten.org/



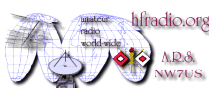
www.skccgroup.com/



www.fists.org/



www.arrl.org/w1aw



www.hfradio.org/



www.txarmymars.org/resources/solarweather.php



www.ecpaaa.org/w5eul



www.3905ccn.com/newsite/netsched.htm



<http://www.saturn.org/>

Upcoming Events



The SKYWARN spotter training schedule is out for 2011. Here are some dates to plan for:

March 5, 2011, Saturday, Tarrant County SkyWarn class. Location to be decided.

8:30—12:00 noon (basic) 1:30—4:00pm (advanced—basic class is prerequisite)

March 12, 2011, Saturday, TESSA Storms Conference, Colleyville Center

9:00am—5:00pm (advanced SKYWARN class is prerequisite)



Club Social Meetings—First quarter schedule (Talk-ins at 442.900, PI 110.9+)

January 10, Ravens Grill, 7:00pm, www.texasstargolf.com/ravensgrille.shtm

February, 21, Saviano's, 7:00pm, <http://savianosrestaurant.com/>

March 14, IHOP, 7:00pm, <http://local.yahoo.com/info-18855622-ihop-restaurant-eules>



ARE Club Meeting and Presentations (Talk-ins at 442.900, PI 110.9+)

January 12, Eules EOC, 7:00pm

February 9, Eules EOC, 7:00pm

March 9, Eules EOC, 7:00pm