



# The Eules Repeater

February 2011

## Change Continues at Amateur Radio Eules

An Editorial Comment

### Special Events

- Club Meeting on the Air, Every Tuesday, 8:00 pm on 442.900, PL 110.9+
- Club Social, Monday, February 21, at Saviano's Restaurant in Eules 6:00 pm
- February club meeting February 9, 2011, 7:00 pm, location is: Eules EOC

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Changes continue at the ARE club. In addition to our change from a monthly net format to a weekly net format (see Archie Blanchard's column on the net), Amateur Radio Eules now has a new web site, thanks to Chris Shanahan, KE5KPC. No longer do we have to give out our former long web site name, we can now just simply say: to go to [www.w5eul.com](http://www.w5eul.com). Its easy for everyone, both new and prospective members, to remember. The new repeater is working out just great, and we picked up two new check-ins from Weatherford. Stay tune for more changes to come. Do you know an old member who hasn't been in a while? Invite him back. I think he or she will have an enjoyable experience. See inside for more good news.

### February Presentation APRS - Automatic Packet Reporting System

Our February feature presentation will be by our own ARE Vice President, James Knighton. James will be giving a demonstration of the equipment needed to setup a mobile APRS station and will explain how APRS works.

APRS is a real-time tactical digital communication protocol for exchanging information between a large numbers of stations covering a large (local) area. As a multi-user data network, it is quite different from conventional packet radio.

APRS was developed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, for tracking and for digital com-

munications with mobile GPS equipped stations with two-way radio. It has grown to encompass just about every aspect of Amateur Radio. APRS provides universal connectivity to all stations by avoiding the complexity and limitations of a connected network. It permits any number of stations to exchange data just like voice users would on a net.

APRS also can facilitate the tracking of key assets during a special event or emergency, and APRS is a full featured location and status reporting system.

APRS is used to transmit real

-time information such as messages, bulletins, announcements and the locations of any status or object via amateur packet radio protocols. The system is capable of transmitting a wide variety of data including weather reports, short text messages, radio direction finding bearings, telemetry data, and storm forecasts. These reports can be combined with a computer and mapping software to show the transmitted data superimposed on a variety of map displays.

This will be a very informative demonstration, so be sure to attend.

### Tech-Talk

**TNC** – Terminal Node Controller, a device used by amateur radio operators to participate in packet radio networks.

**APRS** - An amateur radio-based system for real time tactical digital communications of information of immediate value in the local area.

## Code Practice Sessions After Meetings



Vibroplex "Know Code" key

A few people have expressed interest in having code classes again, but not on another busy night. I am thinking of doing short code classes after each meeting on Wednesday, in a corner of the room, maybe only 15 minutes long. It will be structured so that if you miss a night you miss nothing. One night will not build on

the other. Each night will be self contained. We will study only 4 to 6 letters each night and you will practice sending and receiving, at slow speed. The goal will be to learn the letters and numbers. You will pick up speed as you listen on the air. If interested, email me at [K5SHT@arrl.net](mailto:K5SHT@arrl.net), and I will bring a key. You don't need to bring anything.

## W1AW Qualifying Runs & Code Practice Schedules

**W1AW Qualifying Runs** are sent on the same frequencies as the Morse code transmissions which are listed below. West Coast Qualifying Runs are also transmitted monthly by either K6YR on approximately 3590 kHz, or other West Coast stations on various frequencies. At the beginning of each code practice session, the schedule for the next qualifying run is presented. Underline one minute of the highest speed you copied, certify that your copy was made without aid, and send it to ARRL for grading. Please include your name, call sign (if any) and complete mailing address. The initial certificate is available for a \$10 fee. Subsequent endorsement stickers are available for a \$7.50 fee.

**The February W1AW Qualifying Runs are as follows:** (same frequencies as code practice)

February 2, 7:00 pm Eastern time, Wednesday, (0000z February 3) 10 to 35 WPM

February 17, 4:00 pm Eastern time, Thursday, (2100z February 17) 10 to 35 WPM

**The West Coast Qualifying Run**

February 10, 0500z, Wednesday, February 9, 9:00 pm Pacific time, K9JM, 3590, 7047,5

### Morse Code Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm.

Code bulletins are sent at 18 wpm.

### Digital Transmissions

Frequencies are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz.

Bulletins are sent using 45.45-baud Baudot, PSK31 in BPSK mode and MFSK16 on a daily revolving schedule.

Keplerian elements for many amateur satellites will be sent on the regular digital frequencies on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM Eastern Time using Baudot and PSK31.

### Voice Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.855, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59 and 147.555 MHz.

Pacific	Mtn	Cent	East		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
6:00 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM			Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM		Code Bulletin				
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM		Digital Bulletin				
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM		Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM		Code Bulletin				
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM		Digital Bulletin				
6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:45 PM	9:45 PM		Voice Bulletin				
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM		Code Bulletin				

## Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Radio Cross Band Communications Test

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 62nd Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 21, 2011, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted earlier, the date to be announced soon, which should not conflict with the Dayton Hamvention.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band HF communications, CW, SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Military-to-Amateur cross band operations will take place on the dates/times in ZULU (UTC), and frequencies to be listed for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some military stations may not operate the entire period, depending on propagation and manning. Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military MARS frequencies and listen for amateur radio stations in the Amateur bands indicated below. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes.

## Club Meeting on the Air

By Archie Blanchard, K5ABZ, Net Control Coordinator

At our January meeting, it was decided that if the club had a network of stations **weekly**, rather than **monthly**, a zest for participation might ensue. Thus, this bold new concept was begun January 18, 2011.

Bill, W5WJH, was net control for session one under the new 52-week plan. As he took the reigns that night seven hams were suddenly involved in the very first event.

This was exciting, because for so long only two or three check-ins were made on net night.

Swap Shop became more interesting the second Tuesday, when two of our check-ins had items for sale.

Bill, W5WJH, had the following:

- PALSTAR PM2000A wattmeter. 2000 watts, 1.8-60 mhz, 300w and 3000w range.
- Sears digital multimeter, model 82411/82416
- Radio Shack SVR Meter Model 21-534 power range: 0-20W, 0-200W, 0-2000W. Covers 3 -30 MHZ.

Richard, K5SHT, then stepped up to our Swap Shop microphone with a 33-foot fiberglass mast for sale.

This Swap Shop thing could get really exciting as others bring their sale items to our attention on Tuesday nights.

After the Swap-Shop session was over, the night of January 25<sup>th</sup> was not finished yet. Two brothers in Weatherford had heard our new signal, and checked into our net:

KF5ILA, Richard  
KF5IOA, Ron.

They advised us of the date of the Parker County Hamfest, which is March 26, 2011, at the United Methodist Church, 802 North Elm in Weatherford. Setup hours are 5pm - 9pm Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>. These guys promised to check in with us again next week.

Is it possible that with our new, improved repeater, a new impetus has been born? Stay tuned. James, WJ2K, mentioned his involvement in APRS. Most of us didn't know what that was, and Richard seized the moment by inviting James to present at a future club meeting a session on the Automatic Packet Reporting System. APRS! Be wary chatting with our new president. I said the wrong thing to him, and I, too, suddenly became an agenda item. He says he needs many more "volunteers!"

Speaking of volunteers: Holding a net fifty-two times a year far exceeds the old number of twelve. More than four times as many nets presupposes that most of us be trained and volunteering for net control. Again, we promise to stay with the trainees until the trainee himself feels confident, and says to us, "I don't need assistance any more."

73, K5ABZ

# February 2011

## Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Net	2	3	4	5 Joint club
6	7	8 Net	9 ARE Club	10	11	12
13	14 Valentines	15 Net	16	17	18	19
20	21 Club Dinner	22 Net	23	24	25	26
27	28					

- **HEB Joint Club Meeting, 10:00 am, Saturday, Feb 5, at the Hurst new Fire Station.**
- **Valentines Day** causes us to move our normal dinner meeting from the 14th to the 21st
- **Nets have been changed from a monthly Net to a weekly Net**



## ARRL Sponsored Contests for 2011

### January

- 1 Straight Key Night**  
8-9 RTTY Roundup  
22-24 January VHF Sweepstakes

### February

- 14-18 School Club Roundup  
**19-20 International DX Contest - CW**

### March

- 5-6 International DX Contest - Phone

### April

- 17 Rookie Roundup - SSB

### June

- 11-13 June VHF QSO Party  
25-26 Field Day

### July

- 9-10 IARU HF World Championships

### August

- 6-7 August UHF Contest  
21 Rookie Roundup - RTTY  
20-21 10 GHz and Up Contest (round 1)

### September

- 10-12 September VHF QSO Party  
17-18 10 GHz and Up Contest (round 2)  
24-25 International EME Competition (2.3 GHz +)

### October

- 22-23 EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 1)  
17-21 School Club Roundup

### November

- 5-7 November Sweepstakes, CW**  
19-21 November Sweepstakes, Phone  
19-20 EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 2)

### December

- 2-4 ARRL 160 Meter Contest  
10-11 ARRL 10 Meter Contest  
**18 Rookie Roundup - CW**

## Contests & Radiosport

Contesting is one of the great activities of Amateur Radio. It boosts your technical knowledge and improves your radio operating skills—helping make you a better Amateur.

[www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

In looking for ways to improve the club, a questionnaire was handed out last month. We got some good answers and helpful information. If you didn't fill out the questionnaire last month, please take a moment to fill this one out and mail it to me. I will report on the general responses next month, but will say that those who filled out the questionnaire last month are helping to refine the direction of the club, and we got some good information. Thank you for your help.

73, Dick Pongratz, K5SHT

## Eules Amateur Radio Club Questionnaire

This is an anonymous questionnaire. I would like to know what would interest you most regarding Amateur Radio. If you could have the radio club do something that would interest you, that you would enjoy doing or learning about, what would that be. I would also like to know what you don't like in a radio club.

**You are NOT to identify yourself on this questionnaire.** When you are finished, fold it in half and give it to the club President or mail it to him at: Richard Pongratz, 150 Rieti Drive, Crowley, Texas 76036.

Do you have an HF transceiver:     Yes     No    Brand and model: \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of HF antenna do you use the most: \_\_\_\_\_

How much power do you usually run on HF: (total should add to 100%)

500 to 1,500 watts:                    % of time \_\_\_\_\_

100 to 499 watts:                    % of time \_\_\_\_\_

11 to 99 watts:                    % of time \_\_\_\_\_

10 watts and under:                    % of time \_\_\_\_\_

What are your favorite operating modes (check all that apply) SSB\_\_\_ CW\_\_\_ PSK31\_\_\_ RTTY\_\_\_ AM\_\_\_ FM\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_

What are your favorite operating bands (check all that apply) 160\_\_\_ 80\_\_\_ 60\_\_\_ 40\_\_\_ 30\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_ 17\_\_\_ 12\_\_\_ 10\_\_\_ 6\_\_\_

Are you interested in information about building antennas? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in information about QRP operation (Low power, under 5 watts): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you engage in Radio Sport (contesting): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to know more about Radio Sport (contesting): how to do it, filling out logs, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

What bands do you like to operate on: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in building radio kits, tuner kits, etc? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in building a kit as a club project? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in a club Field Day operation (the main one in June)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in a club sponsored "Day in the Park" event on a Saturday or Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

(This would include socializing, Bar-B-Q, showing off portable equipment, fox hunt, etc.)

For "Day in Park" and other weekend fun events, what day would you prefer:

Saturday early \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday early \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday afternoon \_\_\_\_\_

What talks would you be interested in for club presentations:

How to use the controls on your radio to get the best out of your radio \_\_\_\_\_

Sun Spots and Propagation \_\_\_\_\_

QRP (low power) HF operation \_\_\_\_\_

Antennas and antenna tuners, how to build and how to operate \_\_\_\_\_

EMP (electromagnetic pulse) equipment hardening \_\_\_\_\_

CW code classes, held day of the meeting, but after the meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Antennas (NVIS, Stealth, etc) : \_\_\_\_\_

Other Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

Anything you would like to see the club do that would be interesting to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in participating in a club 40 meter net? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us how you would like to see the club improved, what you would like be doing in the club:

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Your business tag line here.



The Eules Amateur Radio Club is located inside the Eules police station EOC, at: 1102 West Eules Blvd, Eules, Texas CALL-IN FREQUENCY: 442.900

Useful Links

10-10 International www.ten-ten.org/

SKCC Straight Key Century Club www.skccgroup.com/

The International Morse Preservation Society www.fists.org/

www.arrl.org/w1aw

www.hfradio.org/



www.txarmymars.org/resources/solarweather.php



www.w5eul.com



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+) February, 21, Saviano's, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, http://savianosrestaurant.com/ March 14, IHOP, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, http://local.yahoo.com/info-18855622-ihop-restaurant-eules



ARE Club Meeting and Presentations February 5, HEB Joint Club Meeting, 10:00 at the Hurst Fire Station February 9, Eules EOC, 7:00pm March 9, Eules EOC, 7:00pm



Ham-Com, Plano Convention Center, Friday & Saturday, June 10-11 ARRL National convention, will be held at Ham-Com, June 10-11 ARRL Field Day, June 25-26