



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, March 14 at The IHOP in Eules 6:00 pm
- March club meeting March 9, 2011, 7:00 pm, location is: Eules EOC

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Dit Dit:

You CW operators hear it all the time at the end of nearly every CW QSO, where “Dit Dit” is exchanged. Did you ever think about what that means? “Dit Dit” is more than a simple sign-off or the completion of the old “Shave and a haircut...” “Dit Dit” is a unifying thing that says, “We are one with our hobby, especially CW”. During a contest, if you tell the station that just called you that they are a dupe, their reply is usually a simple “dit dit” meaning, “sorry—Good Luck!” “Dit dit” is a salute from one CW operator to another, a universal understanding between CW operators. The folks on SSB don’t have anything similar. So when folks new to CW get on the air, and hear the familiar “dit dit”, the response is simple. Just send back in recognition a simple “dit dit”. It is the last thing send in a CW exchange.

February Presentation APRS - Automatic Packet Reporting System

Our February feature presentation was given by our own ARE Vice President, James Knighton. James gave 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 for tracking and for digital communications 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.

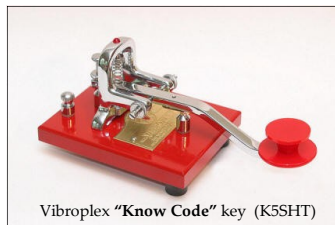
APRS also can facilitate the tracking of key assets during a special event or emergency, and APRS is a full featured location and status reporting system.

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.

Tech-Talk

CONTRIBUTION: A technical term used for members who choose to share their knowledge with the rest of the club members, adding to their knowledge base. ARE is seeking your CONTRIBUTION in the form of an article of any kind, to be in the monthly Newsletter. Donate your article to this pledge drive. Give us something to think about. Contact the editor.

Code Practice Sessions After Meetings



We had our first code practice session after the meeting last month, and it went well. Remember, one class has no relation to the others. It is all training at the same level—to get you started—so feel free to jump in at any time. You never miss anything just because you missed a class.

So far we have one student, Archie Blanchard, K5ABZ, and he is doing very well. More students would be nice. We practice for only 15 or 20 minutes after the meeting, so you don't need to plan on spending a lot of time, or set aside another day. 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, and to practice sending and receiving them. You will pick up speed as you listen on the air.

I will provide the practice key and oscillator, so all you need to do is to come by at the end of the meeting and practice with us. If interested, just show up.

Learning the code is not hard. It just takes 10 minutes of practice a day, either sending or receiving, or both, and the world

is your oyster. We all have busy schedules, but one easy way to get your practice in is to do it just before you go to bed.

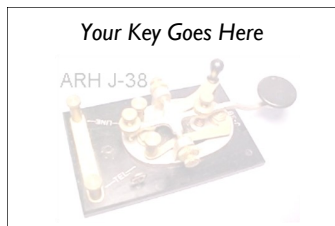
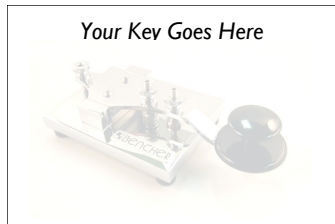
Attitude is the key. It is important to understand that your sending and receiving might be awful and frustrating right now, but it will not stay that way for long. Improvement comes quickly.

When you learn the code (no matter at what speed) and make contact with the instructor on the air* (which can also be done after the meetings right there at the EOC) a photograph of your key with your name will appear in this column, both as a recognition of your accomplishment, and as an encouragement to others. Lets see your key up there at the head of this column.

73, Dick, K5SHT

Note: Contact can be made at the EOC using the Instructors FT-817 with a BuddyPole antenna, and the Clubs IC-706 and the screwdriver antenna, or contact the instructor at his home QTH, your preference. Contact the instructor using CW on the air and you get your key in print. You will receive an official "Know Code" QSL card as confirmation.

*Required information exchange will be: Name, RST, QTH, Radio used and antenna. Remember, Technician license holders have code privileges on specified frequencies, so license class is not a drawback.



W1AW Code Practice Schedules

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.

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. More details as to the exact dates and times will be posted as they become available from 9th Signal Command, Army.

Club Meeting on the Air

By Archie Blanchard, K5ABZ, Net Control Coordinator

We still have optimism for the new net format. We've operated for six weeks, and had some ups & downs, and where exactly we stand is undefined.

With a few exceptions, the Weatherford brothers have been more dependable than our own club members. They tried again last week to check in, but were lost in the process.

The number of check-ins for the month of February was consistent. We had five check-ins three times, and had nine check-ins one time.

This is still a marvelous opportunity for additional members to be trained for net control. The word **opportunity** is appropriate, because it might be difficult to find another training session giving a guarantee to stay on until you, the trainee, says, "I've had enough training; I can do it all alone." Gratification is your gratuity. Training can be done at the E.O.C. or any-

body's QTH, or even a mobile unit. Remember, the training is yours for a lifetime; it's a stepping-stone to net control in a national or international venue, or in a setting like MARS. As a matter-of-fact, MARS will compel you to be net control. A little experience on the local scene will give you confidence. To volunteer, contact Richard, Bill, or Archie.

We plan more innovations in our net program, and would appreciate your suggestions. You may think your idea just isn't good enough, but it may in fact be the best one we've heard.

Join us every Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock at 442.900, PL 110.9 plus, for our Radio Club on the Air.

March 2011

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Net	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Net	9 Club Meeting	10	11	12
13	14 Club Social	15 Net	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Net	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Net	30	31		

- **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

The ARRL International DX SSB Contest

It's time to get ready for the phone portion of the International SSB DX Contest. With the solar flux peaking a125 during the CW contest -- and 10 meters in unexpectedly good shape and open to Europe all through the event -- one wonders if the same kind of conditions will be present for the phone running, 0000 UTC Saturday, March 5-2359 UTC Sunday, March 6.

How will the bands be for the phone portion of the contest? According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, conditions for the DX CW Contest were mixed: "Even with last week's solar flare and coronal mass ejection impacting overall conditions, the low bands were in surprisingly good shape, while 15 meters showed signs of life all weekend. Activity on 10 meters was a welcome surprise, with South American and African stations working all regions of the US. We saw marginal openings between Europe and the US, primarily on a skewed path, not on a direct short path, like we usually see."

In this contest, stations in the US and Canada work only DX stations -- Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX for this contest -- and DX stations only work the US and Canada. DX stations will be trying to make QSOs with all US states and Canadian provinces. The contest exchange is simple: US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and the amount of power they are transmitting with.

With another region of the Sun coming around to face Earth for this contest, there could be more unstable conditions. But if the solar flux index stays high -- and there aren't any more solar flares -- the ARRL DX SSB Contest could have some openings like there haven't been in years.

The [ARRL International DX SSB Contest](#) runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 5-2359 UTC Sunday, March 6, 2011. Complete rules and forms can be found [online](#). Electronic logs should be [submitted via e-mail](#); paper logs can be sent to ARRL DX CW Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Paper logs must be postmarked no later than **0000 UTC Tuesday, April 5, 2011**.

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/



www.fists.org/



www.skccgroup.com/



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



ARE Club Meeting and Presentations 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