

# HCARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

For March 19, 2008

Minutes for the February meeting:

Randy Hargrove, KD5LZJ opened the meeting at 7:10pm on 2/12/2008. We had no visitors and there were 16 members in attendance. The invocation was offered by Randy. Bob McWilliams, KD5VAU gave the minutes from the last meeting and Van Sims N5RZQ made a motion to accept the minutes and Harry Jackson, WD9IHB seconded, and the motion carried. Bob read the treasurer's report and the motion to accept the report was made by David Lamb N5FMO and seconded by Ralph Reeves WA5FCL. The motion carried.

Under old business we discussed the availability of HCARC cookbooks and patches with the club insignia. There are plenty of both left. The large patches are \$15.00 and the small are \$3.00 each. Cookbooks are \$7.00 each. Van Sims was asked to give a repeater update and everything is up and running but there is noise bleeding over from other repeaters on the Salt Grass Network. Gene Grimes gave an update on the ID cards. He stated that he has the cards and the next step is to take pictures of club members so that the cards can be laminated.

Under new business we discussed the new club web page that Ted Harding W5WAG. The address of our page is [www.wa5ec-hcarc.org](http://www.wa5ec-hcarc.org). Ted stated that he has the web page up and running. He has several pages to the site such and a page for the monthly newsletter, a contact page, application form, and links to Ham radio sites such as ARRL. We discussed general guidelines for using the web pages and Ted answered questions about the web pages. Security issues were brought up and most thought it would be good to have a secure member's only area. The pros and cons of posting contact information were discussed and it was agreed that further discussion was needed before we acted. Bob next discussed the online newsletter format. The newsletter will be emailed to members a week before the meeting and will be mailed by USPS to members without email. Bob stressed the importance of having a current email for each of the members. Next David Lamb discussed the upcoming emergency drill in Grapeland. David requested 7 volunteers to help with the drill. The job of the volunteers was to take the communications van to Grapeland and relay messages for the drill between

Houston county and Grapeland EOC and the disaster staging areas. There was a short meeting held with the volunteers and we were told to meet at the EOC at 6:15 and there were discussions as to what we would be required to do. David also offered to set up a class on “What to do with Instant Command” for one of our future meetings. At this time a motion was made by Ralph to adjourn and Van seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

*End of minutes*

### **The Emergency Drill was an Eye Opener**

On Monday 2/18/2008 HCARC members participated in an emergency drill in Grapeland. The scenario was an explosion in Grapeland that took out parts of the Grapeland area including a stretch of Highway 287. This made it necessary to seek help from area EMC services and HASMAT teams. This was a well coordinated effort that challenged the Crockett and Grapeland emergency services and the HCARC to work together as a single unit. The overall opinion was that the drill went off well. Van and Ray Lively, W5DLC expressed some concern over the noise and feedback that we were getting over the radio but didn't think that it would be much of a problem to correct. It takes focus and concentration to relay messages. For instance I would be getting information from two sources at one time and there were people talking and other radios keying up...you get the picture. I learned some new things from the experience and will definitely help with the next one.

### **Our next meeting is on Tuesday March 10.**

The only things that I have so far for the agenda are:

1. I will try to set things up for Ted to walk us through the HCARC web pages.
2. I will contact David to see if he will do a program for us.

As you can see this isn't a full agenda yet. If you have something to add to this let me know.

Bob

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