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TO					THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT		
TELEPHONE NUMBER _____ _____ _____ _____					AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____		
					NAME _____		
					STREET ADDRESS _____		
					CITY AND STATE _____		
REC'D	FROM	DATE	TIME	SENT	TO	DATE	TIME
THIS MESSAGE WAS HANDLED FREE OF CHARGE BY A LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR, WHOSE ADDRESS IS SHOWN IN THE BOX AT RIGHT ABOVE. AS SUCH MESSAGES ARE HANDLED SOLELY FOR THE PLEASURE OF OPERATING, NO COMPENSATION CAN BE ACCEPTED BY A "HAM" OPERATOR. A RETURN MESSAGE MAY BE FILED WITH THE "HAM" DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. FURTHER INFORMATION ON AMATEUR RADIO MAY BE OBTAINED FROM A.R.R.L. HEAD QUARTERS, 225 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CONN. 06111				THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC., IS THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIETY OF LICENSED RADIO AMATEURS AND THE PUBLISHER OF QST MAGAZINE. ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS IS PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS AMONG AMATEUR OPERATORS. TO THAT END, THE LEAGUE HAS ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR DAILY NATION-WIDE MESSAGE HANDLING.			

Radiograms, continued

Any amateur can originate a radiogram on behalf of other individuals, whether the individual is a licensed amateur or not. It is the responsibility of the originating amateur to see that the message is in proper form before its first transmission, because under most circumstances it is improper for a relaying or delivering station to make changes.

Come to the ECHO meeting and learn all about radiograms – then they will be a snap at Field Day!

FIELD DAY PLANNING CONTINUES

ECHO will participate as 3F STX in Field Day, also plans GOTA station

More planning at June meeting

The Houston ECHO Society will continue planning for Field Day at the June 13 ECHO meeting, with presentations on the TR Logging Program by K5GQ and Traffic/Radiograms by KK5NU.

The club can still use lots more operators for the event, especially for Saturday night and Sunday morning.

ECHO will use the call sign W5ECO and operate as a class 3F station. F=emergency operations center stations.

In addition to the two main transmitters, ECHO also plans a third station – called a Get on the Air

(GOTA) station. This station is for newly license hams, those who have been inactive for a while and those who are interesting in getting a ham license. This station will use the same 3F designator, but will have a different call sign from the main station (GOTA call tentatively K5GQ). If you know anyone who would like to get on the air on the GOTA station, please invite him or her.

The GOTA station may even be a good opportunity for Scout troops or other youth groups. One of the Field Day bonuses involves youth participation, so that might be a good way to tie the two together.

ECHO will operate cw and ssb, with maybe some digital modes. Computer logging with TR software will be used.

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Field Day planning, continued

On-air competition takes place from 1 p.m. Saturday to 1 p.m. Sunday. Voice contacts count one point each, while cw and digital contacts are worth two points each. A variety of bonuses are available and are discussed in this newsletter.

Field Day tune-up

Items ECHO is working on:

- Checking resonance of antennas
- Bandpass filters
- Physical location of HF stations
- What combinations will not cause interference (e.g. 20 cw/15 phone/40 digital at same time)
- Physical layout of antennas and possible use of an antenna on the parking garage
- Looking for nulls so that it would be possible for two stations to operate on 20 meters (antenna interaction checks)
- Discussion of types of transceivers to be used, which antennas to use them with and other related items

ECHO Field Day – where we stand

__ Call sign to be used: W5ECO
__ Exchange: 3F STX (South Texas)
__ 3 transmitters + 1 GOTA transmitter (GOTA/3rd transmitter will alternate according to availability of GOTA ops), power level 100 watts (GOTA call sign to be announced)
__ CW coordinator – K5GQ
__ SSB coordinator – need a coordinator
__ Bandpass filters will be used
__ 20 and 40 meters should be best bands
__ We may have 6 meter and 2 meter available and possibly some digital, but main focus is cw and ssb

Field Day bonuses can boost point totals!

Field Day includes a variety of bonuses that can really help increase a club's score. ECHO plans on getting as many bonuses as possible. Here is a list of bonuses and the club's plans:

100 points for **news media coverage** (or at least sending a news release – if done properly, sometimes the media will attend the event) – Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE and Marty Blaise, AG5T are in charge of this bonus.

100 points – set up a **public information table** in Red Cross – this can be set up in the Red Cross lobby near the guard station – we will gladly give a tour to anyone who wants to visit our FD site – NEEDS A COORDINATOR!

100 points for **public location** – Red Cross is a public location so ECHO qualifies (this was determined at a previous FD)

100 points – invite an **elected government official** to attend your FD – the official must attend for bonus – AG5T is coordinating

100 points – invite an **emergency service official** (ARES, Red Cross) to attend, must attend to get the bonus – Mike Nault, W5OFT will attend

100 points – **copy W1AW Field Day bulletin** – it can be copied in various formats, if you don't get the whole thing on one, it's possible to use another mode to fill in the blanks – NEED VOLUNTEERS!

100 points – get properly addressed **radiogram message to Section Manager** – must have certain information listed – best bet is to check into one of the traffic nets – VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

10 points each – properly addressed **radiograms** (100 point maximum) – these can be done on traffic nets and always listen for possibilities of sending to other cities – example you hear a station say West Texas and you have a message for El Paso. There's always a possibility the West Texas station could relay the message. Hey, it's 10 points for both of you! – NEED VOLUNTEERS!

100 points per main station transmitter for emergency power. Note: class F stations only need to prove that emergency power is available (since the Red Cross, etc. don't really want the radio groups firing up their emergency generators) – so ECHO will get 300 points for the three transmitters

100 points for one **satellite FD contact** – need equipment and operator!

100 points for **alternate power for 5 contacts** (solar, wind, etc. power) – we will have to see what we have available – maybe special battery?

100 points – if **100 GOTA QSOs** completed

50 points – if you **submit scores online**

20 points – **youth participation** - each participant age 18 or less making a qso (maximum 100 points)

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Field Day, continued

ECHO wants to have a great competitive effort in this year's Field Day and wants to make sure everyone gets a chance to be involved. If you plan on attending, that's great – invite a friend as well. Better yet, invite a friend that's a prospective ham that can "Get on the Air" on the GOTA station. – *Marty Blaise, AG5T*

Guest Speakers Needed for ECHO Meetings

ECHO officers have compiled a list of topics for ECHO meeting presentations. The club needs to find speakers for these topics. Take a look at the list and see if you know of a good speaker for one (or more) of the topics. If you do, please get in touch with one of the officers – AG5T, W5TXV, WA5QXE, WC5O, W5OFT, and W5GCT.

Possible topics/speakers for ECHO meetings

- How to "Elmer" (teach) a new ham
- How to operate your new radio(s)
- Basic antenna discussion (intros)
- Different radio modulation modes
- All about repeaters
- How do hams use computers
- Online computer access comparisons
- American Red Cross communications
- ARRL's Logbook of the World
- Digital modes of ham radio
- Police Department Lo Jack radio
- Basic radio principles (receivers, transmitters, computers, antennas, etc.)
- Linked repeater systems
- Homebrewing ham equipment
- Using kites to fly antennas
- Direction finding techniques
- Lasers and optical light communications
- Amateur radio contesting
- Slow/Fast Scan Television (ATV)
- Voice Over IP Technology
- Old microphones and keyers
- Mail sorting equipment at post office (may be of interest if you send qsl cards)
- Digital signal processing
- Bands and propagation
- Antique radios
- Wind loading calculations for antennas
- All about coax
- Review of repeater and autopatch etiquette
- Comparing ISPs, DSL, etc.
- All about e-qsls
- Tubes/old radios
- Local ARRL official
- "How to shop at a hamfest"
- "Soldering 101"
- Electrical safety tips

- Amateur radio satellites
- The Handi-Hams Program
- The best grounding systems
- SETI – Search for Extraterrestrial by radio waves
- Cross-band operations
- APRS
- Show-n-tell Night
- How to publicize ham radio events (what types of media are available)
- All about ham radio nets
- Packet Radio
- Official Observer Program
- Stealth antennas
- Ham radio for apartment dwellers and deed-restricted houses
- Review of good ham radio web sites
- Using eBay to buy and sell radios and ham equipment – is it safe?
- How does e-mail really work?
- Installing a mobile radio – VHF/UHF
- Installing a mobile radio – HF
- All about power supplies
- Linear amps vs. better antennas
- All about dxing
- Ham radio magazines
- Interesting ham radio videos
- Trunking systems 800 MHz
- How cell phone systems work
- Military radio systems
- Civil Air Patrol
- Practically short antennas
- All about QRP
- Biological effects of electromagnetic waves
- Near vertical incidence skywave short-range communications
- All about 6-meter operating
- Jamboree on the Air

ECHO attends BPL meeting with CenterPoint

Three ECHO members – Kent Marshall, W5TXV; Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE and Marty Blaise, AG5T attended the recent BPL meeting with CenterPoint Energy. Kent and Lee have prepared a synopsis of the meeting and many of you have received this by e-mail. Copies should be available at the ECHO meeting. CenterPoint is conducting a BPL trial in a neighborhood near the Greenway Plaza and Galleria area. If time permits, Kent and Lee will discuss the BPL meeting at the June 13 ECHO meeting.

Newsletter editor needed

The Houston ECHO Society needs a newsletter editor to put together this monthly newsletter. If anyone would like to volunteer as editor, contact any ECHO officer.