



Monthly ECHO

Volume 08, Issue 2

147.08+ (103.5) 147.32+ (100.0) 224.26-

February 2008

GENERAL MEETING

2nd Monday of the Month
7:00 P.M.

American Red Cross
2700 SW Freeway
Houston, TX 77098

PRE MEETIN EATIN

Goode Company
Mexican Restaurant
(s.w. corner kirby/westpark)
Meet at 5:30-5:45 P.M.
(same night as club meeting)

MAILING ADDRESS

Houston ECHO Society
717 East 8th Street
Houston, TX 77007-1719

WEB PAGE

www.w5eco.org

2007 Club Officers

President

Marty Blaise—AG5T
aq5t@arrl.net

Vice-President

Lee Gaspard—WA5QXE
wa5qxe@arrl.net

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Charlie Matthew—N0XFD
n0xfd@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Mike Nault—W5OFT
w5oft@earthlink.net

Parliamentarian

Matt Paulonis—W2NS
w2ns@arrl.net

2008 Club Officer Nominations DUE AT FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting will mark the yearly tradition of the Houston ECHO Society to nominate officers for the 2008 term. Any current member is eligible to run for any officer position of the club.

The following are brief descriptions of the officer positions that are elected:

PRESIDENT—Conduct meetings of the society, enforce observance of articles of incorporation, bylaws, and motions of the club, decide all questions of order, and serve as general spoke person for the society.

VICE-PRESIDENT—Assume all duties of the president in the absence of the president, chair standing committees on public relations and publicity of the society and one on public service activities.

RECORDING SECRETARY—Keep minutes and role of all membership meetings.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Prepare and mail all correspondence of the society, notify all members of up coming meetings and the agenda, maintain a file of all correspondence.

*The offices of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary may be held by the same person.

TREASURER—Receive all monies received by the society, keep an accurate account of all transactions, keep the membership informed of the status of the society's account.

PARLIAMENTARIAN—Advises and assists the President on questions of order, maintains the articles of incorporation and bylaws with a record of all changes.

Full descriptions of the positions are available in Section 3 of the By-Laws of the society. A copy is available on the ECHO website.

Nominations will be held at the February meeting and then at the March meeting they will be voted on by the current membership of ECHO.

Questions regarding the nomination or election processes can be directed towards any of the current officers.

NEXT MEETING
MONDAY
FEBRUARY 11
7:00 P.M.

ECHO License Exams

The Houston ECHO Society sponsors VE Testing on the 1st Saturday and 4th Tuesday of each month. Sessions are held at the American Red Cross building at 2700 SW Freeway (Hwy 59). This is just west of Kirby Drive on the feeder road.

1st Saturday — 9:00 A.M.

4th Tuesday — 7:00 P.M.

Please check the ARRL Web Site under "Licensing" and do a search for tests using the zip code of 77098.

Franz Laugermann—K3FL is the coordinator of these sessions and can be reached at the following e-mail:

franzlaugerman@sbc.global.net

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

FEBRUARY Power Supply with Power Poles
(Lee Gaspard—WA5QXE)

MARCH Public Service Communications - Examples and Tools
(Charlie Matthew—N0XFD)

APRIL (tba—suggestions welcomed)
(????)

MAY (tba—suggestions welcomed)
(????)

Are you interested or know someone who would be interested in presenting a topic at an upcoming ECHO meeting? E-mail Lee Gaspard—WA5QXE
wa5qxe@arrl.net

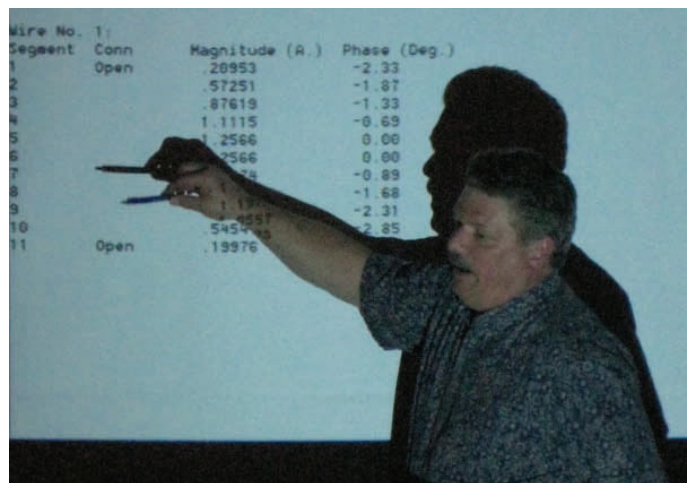
Ham Radio Licensing Classes

The Houston ECHO Society offers Technician Level licensing classes. Plans are in the works for another class to start in late February or March. Plans will be finalized in the next week or two.

Keep an eye on the March newsletter and the ECHO website for more information. If you are interested or know someone that would be interested in taking the class please have them e-mail Charlie Matthew-N0XFD at n0xfd@yahoo.com to get on the e-mail list.

We are looking at Tuesday or Wednesday night over a six or seven week period. Stay tuned for more information.

****no start date has been set yet****



Rick Heller—W5RH Showing some parameters of an antenna modeling pro-

From the Editor...

Charlie Matthew—N0XFD

Time is sure flying, where did January go? Things are sure moving along for 2008. Before you know it April will be here and that will mark my Favorite public service event to volunteer for, the BP MS150. The BP MS150 is April 12-13 this year, a little earlier than normal to avoid some conflicts with some holidays. It is an amazing event and will certainly test your skills as an emergency communicator.

The ride depends heavily on Amateur Radio Operators to provide communications for this two day event. Additional

volunteers are always needed and welcomed. At the March 10th meeting of the Houston ECHO Society I will be presenting the topic "Public Service Communications—Examples and Tools". If your interested in volunteering for the MS150 this would be a good meeting to attend as I will be talking about the MS150. There are many ways to volunteer for the event and not all of the require a two day commitment.

On another matter I would like to remind everyone that I welcome any and all submissions for the newsletter. The

ECHO Meeting Minutes—January 14, 2008

Unapproved Minutes

**Houston ECHO Society Meeting
American Red Cross Building
January 14, 2008**

Meeting Minutes UNAPPROVED VERSION

Officers and Chairs (5)

X—President	Marty Bliaise—AG5T
X—Vice President	Lee Gaspard—WA5QXE
X—Treasurer	Mike Nault—W5OFT
X—Secretary	Charlie Matthew—N0XFD
X—Parliamentarian	Matt Paulonis—W2NS
—Web Master	Mike Urich—KA5CVH

Members and Visitors Present (16)

Frank Robichaux—N5EJX, Virgil Stamps—K5OOR, Howard Bingham—KE5APJ, Art Caprio—KE5OBY, Mike Davidson—N5MT, Bill Hardy—KE5HHH, Gene Horr—NG1H, Raymond Johnson—W7RKJ, Larry Lawson—KK5KE, Glenn Sparks—K15GY, Mark Tyler—K5GQ, John Moore—KK5NU, Chester Farley—KG5YF, Daniel Fwu—KE5RRH, John Fwu—KE5RZU, Albert Marc Passy—W5AMP.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Minutes
3. Reports
 - A. Treasurer
 - B. Secretary
 - C. Repeaters
 - D. Newsletter
 - E. Website
4. Old Business
 - A. Scholarship Discussion
 - B. Ham Radio Classes
5. New Business
 - C. Conversion of CB Radio Equipment
 - B. Upcoming Meeting Presentations, discussion of possible future topics
6. Presentation
 - A. Band Antennas and Antenna System Basics
Rick Hiller—W5RH
7. Adjournment

Minutes

Intro

Meeting called to order by Marty-AG5T at 7:10 p.m. Introductions followed around the room. Minutes from the October 8 and November 12, 2007 meetings were reviewed. Motion by Frank-N5EJX, 2nd by Mike-W5OFT to approve the October 8 and November 12 meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Mike-W5OFT reported the balance of the checking account to be \$5,036.66. Mike reminded us that 2008 membership dues are now due.

Secretary Report—No report.

Repeater Report

Lee-WA5QXE — 147.08 ok, 147.32 ok, 224.26 ok, 444.4 in Rick's garage getting some attention.

Announcements

Bill Stewart-N8LTD talked about a VHF contest coming up.

There is a tailgate sale this Saturday in Cypresswood at

Houston Amateur Radio Supply. This event is usually referred to as 'ICOM Day' or 'Manufacture Day'.

Houston Marathon was this past Sunday. Several club members participated in the event. Lee-W5QXE was the net control for the 5K and offered some incite into the event.

Greater Houston Hamfest is coming up on March 1 at Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Presentations, Flee Market, Exams, Vendors, and Vehicle Displays will all be a part this large event that keeps getting bigger every year.

Old Business

Scholarship - Short discussion on the topic. It was recommended that if we receive inquiries on scholarships that we refer the person to the ARRL and the many offered through them.

Ham Radio Class - Charlie-N0XFD gave a quick report on the last class. Of the 25 in the class 15 have taken the licensing exam and received their license. Another class is in the works with late February or March being the start date. More information will be at the February meeting.

New Business

Conversion of CB Equipment - No discussion

Upcoming Meeting Presentations - Short discussion on some possible ideas for future presentations or topics of discussion at the meeting were brain stormed.

Presentation

Rick Heller-W5RH gave a presentation titled 'W5ARC Band Antennas and Antenna System Basic'. A very informative presentation including some practical antennas examples. The program EZNEC was highlighted as a program to use to model antennas.

Adjournment

Motion by Mike-N5MT, 2nd by Mike-W5OFT to adjourn meeting at 8:30 p.m., passed unanimously.

END

Houston ECHO Society
717 E. 8th Street
Houston, TX 77007-1719

WWW.W5ECO.ORG

CLUB REPEATERS

147.08

+ offset t103.5

147.32

+ offset t100.0

224.26

- offset no tone

The Houston ECHO Society is a general interest amateur (ham) radio club serving greater Houston Texas and is a ARRL Special Services Club. ECHO stands for Emergency Communications by Ham Operators.

ECHO exists to provide emergency communications to various public service agencies in the greater Houston area. In order to fulfill that objective the ECHO society owns and operates repeaters that may be used in times of emergencies as well as providing a pool of trained radio operators to assist in that effort.

Because amateur radio is such a broad hobby ECHO employs the use of special interest groups, or SIG's, so that members and non-members alike may participate in common interest projects and aspects of amateur radio. ECHO offers classes, test sessions, operates repeaters, and participates in various contests such as the ARRL field day.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend our meetings. If you would like to become a member of the Society, membership dues are only \$20 per calendar year. Please see the club treasurer at the next meeting or contact any of the club officers by e-mail (see the first page of the newsletter).

UPCOMING DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 9, 2008—Saturday

Harris County CERT Rodeo

Harris County ARES supporting communications

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

More info on CERT rodeo at

<http://www.harriscountycitizencorps.com/>

February 11, 2008—Monday

Houston ECHO Society Meeting

7:00 p.m., American Red Cross

February 23, 2008—Saturday

Orange Hamfest 2008

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

<http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/>

(if there are events you feel would be of interest to the ECHO membership—please submit the information to Charlie Matthew—N0XFD ECHO Newsletter Editor n0xfd@yahoo.com)

March 1, 2008—Saturday

BVARC Greater Houston Hamfest

8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds

<http://www.bvarc.org>

March 10, 2008—Monday

Houston ECHO Society Meeting

7:00 p.m., American Red Cross

April 12-13, 2008—Saturday / Sunday

BP MS150 Bike Tour

All Day Both Days

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

http://www.ms150.org/ms150/volunteering/more/ham_operators.cfm