



# Monthly ECHO

Volume 08, Issue 4

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

April 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](http://www.w5eco.org)

## 2007 Club Officers

### President

Marty Blaise—AG5T  
[aq5t@arrl.net](mailto:aq5t@arrl.net)

### Vice-President

Lee Gaspard—WA5QXE  
[wa5qxe@arrl.net](mailto:wa5qxe@arrl.net)

### Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Charlie Matthew—N0XFD  
[n0xfd@yahoo.com](mailto:n0xfd@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

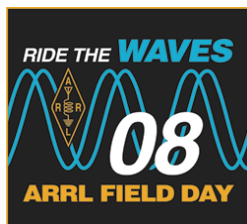
Mike Nault—W5OFT  
[w5oft@earthlink.net](mailto:w5oft@earthlink.net)

### Parliamentarian

Matt Paulonis—W2NS  
[w2ns@arrl.net](mailto:w2ns@arrl.net)

## Field Day 2008

*Never too early to start planning!*



The gears of preparation for Field Day are starting to turn once again. Field Day is June 28-29 this year and it is not too far off,

closer then you think. The ECHO Society and the Red Cross Communications Committee will again be pairing up for the event.

Start thinking about what you could help with this year. Maybe you know some your people in the area that would like to check out the GOTA station. Maybe there are some modes you

would like to check out. Do you have a portable antenna you would like to try out?

Nothing happens by itself for Field Day so be ready to lend a hand. Work activity will occurring the Thursday and Friday before Field Day as well as start at 8:00am Saturday June 28. Watch for more information in next months newsletter.

If you have some ideas for this year's Field Day get in touch with Charlie NOXFD at [n0xfd@yahoo.com](mailto:n0xfd@yahoo.com) or 713-498-9802.

## 2008 Officer Election Results

Election results from the March meeting as follows:

### PARLIMITARIAN

Matt Paulonis—W2NS

### PRESIDENT

Marty Blaise—AG5T

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Lee Gaspard—WA5QXE

### TREASURER

Mike Nault—W5OFT

### SECRETARY

Charlie Matthew—N0XFD

All current officers were re-elected to their positions.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY**  
**April 14**  
**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](mailto:franzlaugerman@sbc.global.net)

## Upcoming Meeting Presentations

|              |                                                          |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>APRIL</b> | <b>Ham Radio Satellites</b><br><i>Allen Mattis—N5AFV</i> |
| <b>MAY</b>   | <b>(tba—suggestions welcomed)</b><br>(????)              |
| <b>JUNE</b>  | <b>(tba—suggestions welcomed)</b><br>(????)              |
| <b>JULY</b>  | <b>(tba—suggestions welcomed)</b><br>(????)              |

**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](mailto:wa5qxe@arrl.net)

## Ham Radio Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) is now accepting applications for scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Scholarships are open to all licensed amateurs who are pursuing a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school.

Applications are due by May 1, 2008

More information on the scholarship along with application information is available at FAR's website.

<http://www.farweb.org/index.php>



Raymond Johnson-W7RKJ presents a section of the Ham Radio Class the ECHO Society and American Red Cross are holding.

## From the Editor...

**Charlie Matthew—N0XFD**

The MS150 is this weekend. Myself and several other club members will be volunteering for communications. If you are available this weekend to help I know the MS150 would really appreciate it. Check-out the back page of the newsletter for sign-up information.

April is here and June is not too far away. It is not too early to start planning for Field Day 2008. The ECHO Society and Red Cross Communications Committee will again be teaming up for this event. Watch the newsletter for more information.

**For those wishing to make submissions for the ECHO Newsletter please be advised that submissions are due by the 25th of the month proceeding the newsletter you want it to appear in.**

Example—for the April newsletter submissions are due on March 25th. The newsletter comes out the Monday before the monthly meeting.

# ECHO Meeting Minutes—March 10, 2008

## Unapproved Minutes

### Houston ECHO Society Meeting American Red Cross Building March 10, 2008

#### Meeting Minutes UNAPPROVED VERSION

#### Officers and Chairs (4)

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| —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 Ulrich—KA5CVH    |

#### Members and Visitors Present (14)

Paul Rubin—N8NOV, Howard Bingham—KE5APJ, Reynolds Lee Foster—WD5EPB, Bill Hardy—KE5HHH, Gene Horr—NG1H, Raymond Johnson—W7RKJ, David Kerns—KE5SRW, Julian Koch—K15XB, Larry Lawson—KK5KE, Kent Marshall—W5TXV, Glenn Sparks—K15GY, John Moore—KK5NU, Stephen Pfetsch, Mike Davidson—N5MT.

#### Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Minutes
3. Reports
  - A. Treasurer
  - B. Secretary
  - C. Repeaters
  - D. Newsletter
  - E. Website
4. Old Business
  - A.
  - B.
5. New Business
  - C. Officer Elections
  - B.
6. Presentation
  - A. Public Service Communications—Tools & Equip  
Charlie Matthew—N0XFD
7. Adjournment

#### Minutes

##### Intro

Meeting called to order by Lee-WA5QXE at 7:10 p.m. Lee gave greetings and then started introductions around the room. He asked each person to give their name, call, favorite mode and why. Lots of interesting comments were exchanged.

##### Treasurers Report

Mike-W5OFT reported the balance of the checking account to be \$5511.66+ dues collected this evening will bring it up to \$5600 or so. Mike reminded us that 2008 membership dues are now due.

**Secretary Report**—Charlie-N0XFD reported the March newsletter was out and it contains the minutes from the February meeting. A BVARC newsletter was received and is available for review. Motion by Gene-NG1H, 2nd by Howard-KE5APJ to approve February minutes as printed in the March ECHO Newsletter.

##### Repeater Report

Lee-WA5QXE — 147.08 ok, 147.32 ok, 224.26 ok, 444.4 in Rick's garage getting some attention. There have been some vague discussions on possible new locations for some the of

ECHO repeaters. Stay tuned for more information.

#### Announcements

There is an ECHO / Red Cross Ham Class coming up in March. Information is in the newsletter. Additional instructors are needed. Please see Charlie after the meeting for more information. Any assistance will be appreciated.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Officer Elections

Lee-WA5QXE opened the floor for any additional nominations and read off the current list of nominees. No additional nominations were presented. Nominations are as follows:

Marty Bliaise-AG5T (President)  
Lee Gaspard-WA5QXE (Vice-President)  
Mike Nault-W5OFT (Treasurer)  
Charlie Matthew-N0XFD (Recording Secretary)  
Charlie Matthew-N0XFD (Corresponding Secretary)  
Matt Paulions-W2NS (Parliamentarian)

Motion by Mike-N5MT, 2nd Raymond-W7RKJ to close nominations and elect all current standing officers into the same position for the 2008-2009 office period (all current officers were nominated for their position). Motion passed.

Matt-W2NS made the comment that the club does not have a current copy of Roberts Rules of Order that the parliamentarian can use during meetings. It would be nice for ECHO to obtain a copy of the document.

Motion by Matt W2NS, 2nd Paul-N8NOV for the society to procure a copy of Roberts Rules of Order not to exceed \$20. Motion passed.

#### Presentation

Charlie Matthew-N0XFD gave a presentation on various equipment and tools that are used while volunteering for a public service event for communications.

#### Adjournment

Motion by Howard-KE5APJ, 2nd by Gene-NG1H to adjourn meeting at 8:15 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**

### **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](http://www.ms150.org/ms150/volunteering/more/ham_operators.cfm)

If you are able to volunteer please give Mike Hardwick-N5VCX a call at 713-826-6917

### **April 14, 2008—Monday**

*Houston ECHO Society Meeting*

7:00 p.m., American Red Cross

### **May 12, 2008—Monday**

*Houston ECHO Society Meeting*

7:00 p.m., American Red Cross

### **June 7, 2008—Saturday**

*Houston/Galveston Hurricane Workshop*

*"Ready or NOT"*

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., GRB Convention Center

<http://hurricaneworkshop.com/>

### **June 9, 2008—Monday**

*Houston ECHO Society Meeting*

7:00 p.m., American Red Cross

### **June 28-29, 2008—Saturday / Sunday**

*Houston ECHO Society FIELD DAY*

8:00 a.m., American Red Cross

Know of something that should be on this list? Then e-mail the information to Charlie NOXFD at [n0xfd@yahoo.com](mailto:n0xfd@yahoo.com) - be sure to put "ECHO NEWSLETTER CALENDAR" in the subject line.