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Newsletter of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club, AD5BB

March, 2010

Alpine, Texas

MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY '10

March 9, 2010

A very short business meeting this month. 14 people attended.

Bill Roberts had delivered the clubs donation to Hospice House in Odessa in Bob Ayer's memory, and Wendy and Bonnie had sent a very warm and touching Thank You note to the club.

The Hammerfest competition cycling event will be held April 10-11, before our next meeting. Jim Fowler is coordinating the communications team. Those wishing to volunteer can contact Jim at jrf12@mac.com to sign up.

Midland Ham Fest will be Saturday, March 20 at the Midland Lions Club, 200 Plaza Ave. from 8:00 A.M. till whenever it ends. More info at <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>.

Bill Roberts gave a slide show presentation detailing radio 'Traffic Handling' and the proper way to construct the ARRL RADIOGRAM form and how these radiograms are passed over two way radio.

You will learn what features and conditions indicate a real tornado, and which ones indicate less destructive elements but look similar to tornados.

In Alpine, the National Weather Service will hold SKYWARN® training on Tuesday, March 30th at 7:00 P.M., on the Sul Ross State University campus in the Warnock Science Building, room 201.

Please try to attend.

Other locations and dates for SKYWARN® can be found at the end of this newsletter.

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SKYWARN® TRAINING

Bill Baker, W5ATO

I saw my first buzzards of the year on Sunday afternoon, March 13. In the eastern parts of the U.S. people rely on an animal called a Ground Hog to tell them how much longer winter will last. Here in West Texas, the return of the buzzards means the fruit trees are about to bloom, and once they do we will probably only have one more day of freezing weather before spring returns.



SKYWARN
WEATHER.GOV®

Spring in West Texas also brings severe thunderstorms, flooding rains, damaging hail, dangerous lightning, and usually a number of tornados.

The National Weather Service Office in Midland, annually conducts training workshops throughout their entire service area. It is part of their severe weather early warning network systems.

SKYWARN® training will teach you what to look for as indications of severe weather. What types of clouds indicate the possibility of severe weather developing. What cloud features to look for to estimate a strong or weak storm system. What the various structures of a severe storm system tell about where to expect the winds, where to expect the rain, where to expect the hail, where to expect possible tornados, and what indicators to look for to know if possible tornado conditions are developing.

Ft. DAVIS HAMMERFEST

April 10-11, Saturday and Sunday are the dates for the annual Hammerfest competition cycling event in Ft. Davis.

SATURDAY MORNING HILL CLIMB will start at 8:00 A.M., communications team meeting at 7:00 A.M. at Murphy's parking lot, south end of town at the SH 17 / SH 118 wye. 6 to 10 volunteers wanted.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON TIME TRIALS will start at 2:30 P.M., communications team meeting around 1:30 to 1:45 P.M. at Murphy's. 4 to 8 volunteers wanted.

SUNDAY MORNING SCENIC LOOP RACE will start at 8:10 A.M., communications team meeting at 7:00 A.M. at Murphy's. 15 to 20 or more volunteers wanted.

Communications coordinator will be Jim Fowler, KD5KBU and you may contact him to volunteer at jrf12@mac.com.

55th ANNUAL MIDLAND HAMFEST SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 8:00 a.m.

Midland Lions Club, 200 Plaza Ave. I-20 to exit #134, north on Midkiff Rd., right on Wall St., about one mile to Missouri, left on Missouri, right on Plaza Ave.

31° 59.622' N, 102° 06.087' W for GPS.

Talk In frequency, 147.30, plus offset, no tone. It will be in controlled net operation for talk in and Hamfest visitors information.

<http://hamfest.w5qgg.org>

This is an ARRL sanctioned event and includes the West Texas Section Convention