

The  
**W5ES**

**BULLETIN**

The El Paso Amateur Radio Club

**June 2023**

A 501 c (3) Organization



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W5ES BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE EL PASO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
2100 SAN DIEGO AVE. EL PASO, TX 79930-1320.

**REMEMBER - IT'S NOT THE CLASS OF LICENSE THE AMATEUR HOLDS, BUT THE CLASS OF THE AMATEUR THAT HOLDS THE LICENSE.**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

If you are a member of The El Paso Amateur Ham Radio Club, your yearly contribution is needed. Dues were due in January but there is still time to send them. We need the financial support. You may make your contribution to the club by mail to EPARC, 2100 San Diego St. El Paso, Texas 79930. We have a PayPal account that will allow you to pay your dues and/or make your contribution electronically from your bank account or credit card. Please consult the W5ES website at: W5ES - El Paso Amateur Radio Club <http://www.w5es.org/index.html> and W5ES Membership [http://www.w5es.org/1\\_0/1\\_9.html](http://www.w5es.org/1_0/1_9.html) for more information.

Don't forget to participate in the weekly W5ES EPARC Sunday Nite Net at 7:00 pm MST. on the Amigo Link System. If you are a frequent user of these repeaters, The WTRA would like your donation. For more information, please visit the website at: <https://www.hamradioelpaso.com> and click on the WTRA tab.

We Will Host a VE session on Saturday June 4th at the clubhouse from 9:00 – Noon. Please invite and persuade others to take part of this hobby. For more information, please contact Chris Roberts at [robert.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:robert.roberts@gmail.com).

On another note, we have acquired several sponsors for our 2nd annual El Paso Ham Radio Roundup and Hamfest and we will be having a raffle on October 28, 2023, of an Icom 7300 and tickets are available NOW. You can purchase your ticket for ONLY \$20.00 by using PayPal through our website <http://www.w5es.org/index.html>.

Field Day is around the corner doors will be open at 9:00 am on June 24 and 25, 2023 and you are welcome to bring your gear and set up. As we all know Field Day starts at 12:00 noon. We will be discussing more information in our regular business meeting so please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom.

The auction was a failure due to lack of attendance, however we still have another auction planed later this year. Please make plans to attend.

W5ES has its own Zoom account. Here is the link for our meetings. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83337857007>  
Passcode: 039370

This past year we have enjoyed increased involvement at the ARRL West Texas Section level thanks to weekly ZOOM meeting with Dale, W5WI and David KF5WDJ. We encourage all of you to set aside time on Thursday evenings to tune in at 7:00 pm MST.

Thanks to various members for your hard work. The Clubhouse is in great condition.

73,

Javier K5MHC



## DEC Bulletin

The North American Monsoon Season begins on June 15 and will run through September 30. This is when we in the desert southwest get most of our annual rainfall. I thought this would be an opportune time to talk about some of the things weather spotters should do and have in their possession while out spotting storms. As you found out the SKYWARN® training does not talk about amateur radio. I am going to list some equipment that could make spotting easier. I am in no way suggesting that you should rush out and purchase all the equipment.



Safety is of course first and foremost in weather spotting. Always pick a vantage point where you are not in the path of the storm. Keep a safe distance from the storm. Have a map of the area available to determine the best escape route in case the storm changes course. The best vantage point is on the right rear flank of the storm. From this vantage point the spotter can see what is coming behind the current storm. Unfortunately, we in the desert southwest cannot always have this vantage point due to the border with Mexico.

Form a team of two people. One is the driver that concentrates only on driving and the road conditions. The other person is the navigator, spotter, and radio operator. The radio operator should always be in contact with the net control station if a net is in progress. Otherwise, it would be a good idea to have a fixed station on frequency that is aware spotters are in the field and near the storm. The net control station or fixed station should also have a radar image available and can warn the mobile spotters in the field of possible storms coming up behind them.

The station out at the El Paso NWS can handle HF, UHF/VHF analog, or UHF/VHF DV (D-Star) reports.

Having an APRS tracker in the vehicle is another asset. This way operators at the NWS can track your location on [APRS.FI](http://APRS.FI) while in the field.

The D-Star mode brings some capabilities that are unique to the nets. The same radio can be used to receive voice reports and run D-RATS to send/receive low speed data spotter report forms with attached photos. D-Star also has its own form of APRS called D-PRS so the spotters can be followed in the field on the Internet. D-PRS tracks are also available on APRS.fi. A word of advice when using D-PRS set the radio to beacon position information only when the

PTT is depressed. The location can be determined, and the NWS operator can have your back. D-Star does not necessarily need the Internet present. It also works great on simplex or over a local D-Star repeater. However, D-Star can be used to quickly set up a wide-area network with the use of the Internet and reflectors. This would be especially effective in situations such as tornados when getting reports back to the state capital would be important. D-RATS has a map which is provided by [Thunderforest Maps](http://ThunderforestMaps). There are different overlays that can be displayed. One is the Landscape, and this overlay shows contour lines. Tell D-RATS that an external GPS receiver is attached eliminates the guess work as to exactly where you really are. It will read the coordinates from the GPS receiver and insert them in the report form for you.

Have navigational aids such as a Magellan or Garmin GPS unit for the vehicle, and an up-to-date paper map as a backup is a good idea. City and county maps will assist in finding escape routes. Topographical maps provide contour lines and elevation that can assist in determining a suitable location to spot from. Google Earth maps are current maps for laptops.

This is part one of a three-part article. We will get into some of the items that will be needed and some nice to have items while out spotting for the NWS next month.

*The SKYWARN® name and logo are trademarked: SKYWARN® is a registered trademark of NOAA's National Weather Service and are used by permission.*

Questions and comments are always welcome and encouraged concerning this article. Send questions and comments to the address shown below.

Lew Maxwell, KB5HPT

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

DEC, District 6, WTX Section

TX RACES: DRO-8A

Email: [kb5hpt@arrl.net](mailto:kb5hpt@arrl.net)

## VE Testing News

For the past 6 months, the W5ES VE team has implemented a digital paperwork process that has made testing faster and easier than ever. The VE team has also held 3 online test sessions in the past month. Thinking of upgrading? We can help make it happen on your schedule, from the comfort of your QTH. Email Chris ([kc8goq@qsl.net](mailto:kc8goq@qsl.net)) for more information about online testing. The next VE session will be held on May 6 4 at K5WPH at 3709 Wickham Ave. at 9:00AM.

## Net Meetings

Don't forget our Sunday night net at 7:00 PM on the Amigo Link. Also - -  
**2-Meter Sideband Net** -Sundays at 8:00 PM on 144.200.  
**D-STAR Net** Mondays at 7:15PM on Reflector 55A  
**WTR** – Mondays at 8:00 PM on Amigo Link repeaters

## Classified Ads

**WANTED:** Donation items for the W5ES Tailgate on Oct 29. If you have any gear you would like to donate to the club, please send an email to [w5es.eparc@gmail.com](mailto:w5es.eparc@gmail.com)  
**WANTED:** Your classified ads! Having something to sell? Have something you want? Post an ad in The Bulletin! Send your 100 words or less ad to [w5es.eparc@gmail.com](mailto:w5es.eparc@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the next issue.

## Contact W5ES

Want to join the Club? Help out around the Clubhouse? Contribute an article or classified ad to The Bulletin? Have a question? A comment? An idea? A donation? Send an email to: [w5es.eparc@gmail.com](mailto:w5es.eparc@gmail.com)

## June Business Meeting 6/9/23

Our next meeting will be held Friday June 9 at 7:00PM.

Our usual dinner meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday will be Friday June 23 at 6:00PM.

The ZOOM links for our meetings will be as follows:

Fridays- [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/833 3785 7007](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83337857007)

Meeting ID: 833 3785 7007

Passcode: 039370

## Repeaters

W5ES repeater is 443.150, + Offset, PL 173.8 Automatic analog and C4FM digital.

**Wires X Node: 11584 Room: 21584**

## W5ES Merchandise



Kelly KB2RN has been hard at work and set up an online store featuring W5ES branded items with the club logo. Items include cups and mugs, stickers, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and handbags. There are many colors and styles to choose from, so hopefully there is something for everyone. Part of the proceeds come back to the club. To visit the web store, go to [www.w5es.org](http://www.w5es.org) and click on the store on the main page of the club website.

2023 June



**COMING EVENTS CALENDAR**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM		VE Exam WSES 2100 San Diego 9:00 -Noon
WSES NET 7:00 PM AMIGO LINK	D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM			West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM	WSES Business Mtg 7:00PM	
WSES NET 7:00 PM AMIGO LINK	D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM			West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM		
WSES NET 7:00 PM AMIGO LINK	D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM			West Texas Zoom Mtg. 7:00 PM	WSES Dinner Mtg 6:00PM	FIELD DAY
FIELD DAY	D-Star Net 7:15 PM WTRA NET 8:00PM					