



# W5AC Texas A&M University Amateur Radio Club



Thursday, 8 November, 2018

## Minutes from the November 2018 General Meeting

President/KG5SDD called the meeting to order at 1935 USCST (UTC-6).

Vice-President/WG1GEM, Treasurer/KG5YRW, Adviser/N5TLT, Historian/W5QZ, QSL Manager/W5MHN, and Secretary/KE0MXN were also present. There were ten voting members and three non-members present.

### President's Report:

- **HF Room Setup:** Jacob/KG5SDD reported that the HF room was recently reconfigured to allow for multiple operators to be present simultaneously, with new logging equipment. Anyone interested in learning the new setup should attend a Ham Hour (HH). For more information on Ham Hour, see *Ham Hour* in the *Good of the Order* section.
- **T-shirts:** Jacob/KG5SDD reported that the Tshirts authorized at the previous meeting are presently being acquired, but have yet to be purchased.

### Vice President's Report:

- **Mess Hall:** Connor/WG1GEM reported that W5AC wishes to maintain a self-supporting mess hall of beverages, and that the macaroni and cheese and ramen cups will be disposed of soon, as many packages have expired and they have been left in the microwave without water in recent memory.

### Treasurer's Report:

- **Main Account:** Max/KG5YRW noted that the main account has \$2,393.71, up 360 dollars mo/mo
- **Second account:** Max/KG5YRW noted that the second account for ARRL test fees had a balance of \$21.40
- **Donation account:** Max/KG5YRW noted that the donation account had balance \$430.31

### Secretary's Report:

- **October Minutes:** Jace/KE0MXN read the October meeting minutes.

### Director of Repeater Operation's Report:

- **IP Address:** Kevin/N5TLT remarked that W5AC has lost the IP subnet for internet access, preventing the use of allstar on the repeater. Connor/WG1GEM and Kevin/N5TLT elaborated, stating that to get allstar setup, W5AC would need another controller or have to use allstar as a controller, as the present repeater has only one port. Kevin/N5TLT has begun investigating getting an alternative subnet and will request a new one when ready.
- **Tuning:** Connor/WG1GEM has tuned the duplexers on the repeater for normal operation, so portables ought to be able to get into the repeater better. They ought to be tuned more regularly, specifically, as needed.
- **IRLP:** Kevin/N5TLT remarked that the IRLP interface has gone missing, despite being



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in a secure location. Connor/WG1GEM and others noted that although allstar was used in the old repeater setup, it has been down for over a year and that acquiring a new board would require some time to get it re-enabled, which would also be a hassle for recent graduates who would want to interface with W5AC through it due to strict requirements. Echolink would perhaps be more prudent, as it has less stringent requirements.

- **K5ZY:** Connor/WG1GEM presented information sent out over the listserv by Ty Weaver about the new DMR repeater, KZ5Y. 444.125 MHz is the frequency of the repeater, which supports both analog and digital modes (DMR-Marc/allstar/TGIF). Anyone requesting more information may email [tydweaver@gmail.com](mailto:tydweaver@gmail.com).

### QSL Manager's Report:

- **DXCC:** Marty/W5MHN noted that W5AC has 311 worked entities (up 1 mo/mo), with the most recent entity being Ducie Island VP6D, with a digital and SSB entry. However, the SSB entry is unaccounted for in the log, perhaps a busted call. W5AC remains at 307 entities confirmed.
- **QSL Cards:** No QSL cards were received.

### Historian's Report:

- **QSL Cards:** Dave/W5QZ passed around some QSL cards and a sample of a test question at the October meeting, and did the same with the same test question at the November meeting
- **Variable Inductor:** Dave/W5QZ exhibited his variable inductor and explained tuned circuits
- **Radio Button Switch:** Dave/W5QZ demonstrated the use of a radio-switch button from 1927, an explained how when it was designed, electrical engineers had to know just as much about mechanical setups as electrical ones since electronics in those days were a hybrid of the two
- **VTVM:** Dave/W5QZ presented his vacuum tube voltmeter (VTVM) and demonstrated after the meeting how it was far more accurate than the modern multimeter, with the ability to tare and observe capacitor charging

### Motions and Votes

- **October Meeting Minutes:** The October meeting minutes were passed as written unanimously. The quorum requirement of seven members was certified by Jace/KE0MXN
- **December Meeting:** The date of the December meeting would have conflicted with finals, so the club passed a motion to move the meeting to Wednesday, 5 December 2018 at 1930 USCST (UTC-6). This motion passed without opposition, and the quorum requirement of seven members was certified by Jace/KE0MXN.

### Club Business

#### Old Business



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- **Remote Receiver:** Dave/W5QZ asked what type of antenna W5AC proposed to use for the remote receiver, and when it would be purchased. Jacob/KG5SDD and Connor/WG1GEM proposed something omnidirectional, such as a long wire or the like, while Dave/W5QZ would prefer a directional antenna for the longer distances, and has equipment he would be willing to put up for the project if that is something W5AC wanted to pursue. Kevin/N5TLT remarked that W5AC does not presently have a working rotor (as the one on the tower is malfunctioning and the spare has been disassembled). Bill/KZ3G proposed asking Tom Teles about the matter, as he has volunteered to have an antenna on his land should W5AC wish to pursue that as well.
- **Repeater:** See *Director of Repeater Operations' Report*
- **Open House:** Jacob/KG5SDD noted that W5AC would likely be indoors for the Spring MSC Open House, and that the EC has authorized the expense. Dave/W5QZ proposed bringing the 2m antenna back, as many folks took an interest to it previously. Bill/KZ3G then proposed bringing a couple of tape measure antennas and a couple of his handhelds to do some type of foxhunt, perhaps incidental to the open house. He also remarked that getting in touch with Steve Hicks/N5AC might be of use should W5AC wish to present a flex or some other SDR at the MSC Open House. Furthermore, he remarked that bringing Flex Radio Systems (or others) out during school club roundup would be a wise idea. A maestro would draw attention. Kevin/N5TLT suggested keeping a more conservative table to prevent us from impeding general flow or harming the rules of the open house.
- **Youtube Proposal and Christmas Parade:** Jace/KE0MXN proposed that W5AC should start a Youtube channel to document outreach. Max/KG5YRW proposed live streaming audio through Youtube for members to listen to whatever they would like to. Kevin/N5TLT remarked that consent forms and/or copyright prudence must be used in order for the Youtube channel to be successful. Several people noted that the Department of Student Activities will look to things like this as “proof” that W5AC is doing good for not only ourselves, but also the community. Bill/KZ3G suggested that W5AC participate in the W5BCS/CSTX annual Christmas parade, and perhaps document that on video for the channel, to help give kudos to College Station et al. Connor/WG1GEM remarked that W5AC may be able to bring additional members to the Christmas parade this year from TASC/TAMSCAMS
- **School Club Roundup:** Jace/KE0MXN presented the results from the October School Club Roundup. W5AC placed 14th in the college bracket with 1,938 points. Dave/W5QZ urged the club to compete for points in the spring SCR and revealed that the high score W5AC got in 2016 was largely due to lots of local contacts and with schools in all fifty states on several bands. Several others mentioned that it would be wise to get others involved in SCR in the future, such



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as professors/students in other clubs/local schools, and former W5AC members.

### New Business

- **V/UHF Room:** Jace/KE0MXN reported that since the HF/contesting room has been revamped, the 5XB room has been gutted. Hence, now would be a good time to implement 5XB's original purpose: a V/UHF room. Connor/WG1GEM remarked that satellite antennas are still at the shack and that it wouldn't be too difficult to install them again.
- **Foxhunt:** Jace/KE0MXN asked about starting a foxhunt in the spring semester. Bill/KZ3G mentioned that a couple of tape measure antennas and good handhelds are available to W5AC upon request, and that events like foxhunts are needed as the Department of Student Activities will want to see us engage the community.
- **Christmas Parade:** Bill/KZ3G mentioned that W5BCS participates in the local Christmas parade and that it would be wise for W5AC members to participate if able to do so. Connor/WG1GEM mentioned that he may be able to get more people (TASC) aboard if needed.
- **HF Nets:** Jace/KE0MXN brought up the request by former W5AC members (notably W5UPQ) to host an HF net for former students to check in to. Marty/W5MHN mentioned that if W5AC wanted to have such a net, it could be annual on an event like Bonfire or Muster, and that W5AC could request a special event station callsign, which could be announced in the former student magazine. Connor/WG1GEM mentioned that IRLP would likely be less hassle, but see *Director of Repeater Operations Report* for more information on the IRLP node.
- **Testing Sessions:** Dave/W5QZ mentioned that he knows of several individuals who will need a license test in the near future (January at the earliest). In addition to the normal testing sessions after each meeting, Connor/WG1GEM remarked that TASC will try to get licensed through W5AC, as well.
- **Work Meetings:** Jace/KE0MXN requested that W5AC begin holding work meetings to repair the shack. Kevin/N5TLT remarked that these usually are held on Saturdays. Marty/W5MHN remarked that it would be just as easy to extend business meetings in order to clean up the shack.
- **Openings:** W5AC is looking for a Director of Operations position candidate, Director of Public Relations candidate, and Director of Traffic Handling candidate. Marty/W5MHN remarked that posting someone into the last position would make W5AC more active as someone would be at the shack nearly every night. Anyone wishing to apply for these positions may email [clubofficers@w5ac.tamu.edu](mailto:clubofficers@w5ac.tamu.edu) or notify any of the officers of their intent.

### Good of the Order

- **Meteor Shower:** The Leonid meteor shower will peak on the 17th through the 19th of November, so working meteor scatter will be possible should anyone wish to participate



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- **10 Meter Contest:** 8-9 December, there will be the ARRL 10 meter contest. Interested parties should visit the ARRL website for more information.
- **Rookie Roundup:** 15-16 December, any recently licensed hams may compete in this event. Again, interested parties should visit the ARRL website for more information.
- **Ham Hour:** After each weekly net, there will be an hour at the shack for those who have amateur radio related questions or who would like to learn more about operating (the net, HF, UHF/VHF, etc).
- **Iraq:** Jace/KE0MXN expressed interest in working Yi(Iraq), as they are active again on DXSummit. Dave/W5QZ remarked that there are many details which go into DXing which ought to be considered: band conditions, time, whether locals (here or there) are being noisy on the air (wall of contacts), and the like.

**Adjourn:** Kevin/N5TLT motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2039 USCST (UTC-6). The meeting adjourned at 2039. The next meeting will be held on 5 December 2018 at 1930 USCST (UTC-6) at the shack.

**Presentation:** Max/KG5YRW presented on modulation types at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Testing Session:** W5AC held a testing session following the meeting. Don/KI5BPM passed his T4 examination to become an Extra Class operator.

Respectively submitted,

Jace Nelson / KE0MXN

TAMU ARC Secretary



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### Callsign Index (2018):

Name	Callsign
Alexander Olah	KI5BVJ
Patrick Manning	KI5BVI
Joshua Shaffer	AG5JH
Jace Nelson	KE0MXN
Chris Gillett	KF5IBA
Davis Hutto	KF5ZPP
Jacob Morgan	KG5SDD
Quinton Lawton	KG5SSL
Matthew Conn	KG5VGM
Max Witek	KG5YRW
Santosh Ganji	KI5AVL
Don Arnold	KI5BPM
Daniel Ghan	KM4OPI
Bill Preston	KZ3G
Matthew Komitsky	N/A
Steve Hicks	N5AC
Kevin Glueck	N5TLT
Martin Nau	W5MHN
Dave Gent	W5QZ
Corder Guy	W5RHT
Connor Farrell	WG1GEM
Garrick Van Rensburg	N/A
Mike Mertes	KZ5M
Max Lesser	KG5HZE