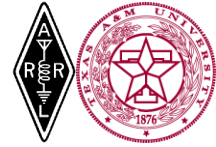




W5AC Texas A&M University Amateur Radio Club



Thursday, December 10, 2015

Draft Minutes from the TAMU ARC Monthly Business Meeting

President/KG5GDV called the meeting to order at 1929. Vice-President/KG5JYY, Treasurer/KF5TYT and Secretary/W5MHN were also present. There were 7 voting members, 2 non-voting members and no visitors present. The quorum requirement was certified by W5MHN.

President's Report: W5AC had 6 personnel show up at the Holiday Parade on Sunday, December 6. Due to the presence of the College Station Fire Fighters Union only five of our people were utilized. In the future, we will look at locking in tasks and functions for our people before the parade date.

The W5AC booth at the Holiday on the Quad festivities resulted in three people expressing interest in the club. They will be contacted and provided further information.

The Executive Committee (EC) formalized the appointment of the Station Trustee, QSL Manager, Director of Repeater Operations, and Newsletter Editor in accordance with the constitution at the most recent EC meeting. The club is still looking for a Director of Operations and Director of Public Relations. Please see an officer if interested.

The EC discussed club T-shirts as a result of the last business meeting and KG5JYY has the project for action.

In order to increase participation during the club's weekly foxhunts, the schedule will change for the spring semester. Each week will alternate; one week on Friday the following week on Thursday. This will allow people whose class schedules preclude participation on Fridays to join the hunt on Thursdays.

As the spring semester does not commence until the later part of January, the January business meeting will take place on January 21, 2016, the third Thursday of the month.

The Hy-Gain T2X Tailtwister rotor installed in the tower is having issues. It initially performed satisfactorily but then



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developed an issue where it would only rotate in a 140 degree arc. A decision was made to leave it in place as this was at the start of the school year and prior to school club round up, so the W5QZ/W5MHN adjusted the mast to ensure the arc covered the USA and needed DXCC entities that were scheduled to activate in the coming weeks. After several weeks of the limited arc, the rotor returned to turning almost 360 degrees. When W5QZ/W5MHN went to realign the mast, they discovered that the tower winch brake no longer worked. The winch break failure would not allow the tower to be safely retracted. After extensive discussions within the EC and contacting the tower and winch manufactures the EC has a proposal that it has determined is in the best long term interest of the club and will be addressed during new business.

Treasurer's Report: KF5TYT presented an overview of the state of the club's finances since last month and reported that a copy of the treasurer's report will be posted to the W5AC Shack bulletin board for review.

Secretary's Report: W5MHN reviewed the minutes from the November 2015 Monthly Business Meeting and corrected a busted call, Russ/KG5JZA. Motion from KZ3G, seconded by KG5JYZ to accept the minutes as read - the motion passed on a voice vote.

QSL Manager's Report: W5MHN reported that the clubs DXCC status is 302 Mixed Entities worked (296 last month), 292 confirmed (290 last month), and 7 new slots filled in the band/mode matrix.

Club Business:

Old Business:

- a. **Google Services Account:** No update
- b. **5XB Access:** No update
- c. **T-Shirts:** KG5JYY has found a local source for T-shirts and will procure approximately 20 shirts for club members to



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purchase. This batch of shirts will have a new design and layout.

- d. **Shack Open House:** KG5GDV gave his recruitment presentation to an antenna design class which resulted in one person attending the shack open house as well as 6 people from that class sitting the technician exam, four of which passed.

New Business:

- a. **MSC Spring Open House:** This is the campus-wide Student Organization Showcase and Recruiting Fair organized by the MSC at the beginning of each semester. The event will occur the first Sunday after school resumes in the spring on January 24 from 1300 - 1700. W5AC will put portable HF and VHF/UHF stations on the air plus Fox Hunt and other equipment demonstrations. We will have a schedule at the January business meeting and be looking for volunteers to staff the table in one hour shifts.
- b. **Rotor/Winch:** W5QZ provided an in-depth review of the current winch/rotor service issues and proposed the following EC approved-recommendations based on club timeline constraints:
 - a. **Winch:** Purchase a Dutton-Lainson DC winch from Heights Tower for approximately \$500+taxes/shipping - motion passed unanimously. Current winch will be returned to Heights Tower for possible credit/reimbursement.
 - b. **Rotor:** Purchase a new Hy-Gain T2X Tailtwister rotator for approximately \$600+taxes/shipping - motion passed unanimously. Current rotator will be returned for warranty work and then kept as spare.

Good of the Order:

- a. **Soda Mess:** As the clubhouse is not located near any vending machines or establishments, KG5JYY has volunteered to act as our soda mess custodian. He will set up and stock a soda mess in the kitchen area of the shack. Payment will be on



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the honor system; should this not work out, then the mess will go away. Profit, if any, will be plowed back into the club in the form of a pizza party or social event.

- b. **AggieSat Lab:** Four members from the AggieSat Lab sat for and passed their technician class licenses during the previous month. These exams were administered at the W5AC shack, with W5AC member Volunteer Examiners.
- c. **Upgrades:** Congratulations to KG5JZA who upgraded to general class from technician.

Next Meeting: *The January Monthly Business meeting will be at the shack on Thursday, January 21, 2015 at 1930. Note that this is the THIRD Thursday of the month, due to winter break.* Thereafter, meetings will resume on the second Thursdays of subsequent months.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1957.

Program: W5QZ attended the 15th USA National ARDF Championships held near Elbert, CO last August. He described the rules and procedures involved in the four different events:

- 1) 80 Meter Classic
- 2) 2 Meter Classic
- 3) 80 Meter Sprints
- 4) 80 meter FoxOring

He displayed trail maps and other equipment used by competitors, along with strategy tips and a slide deck covering all phases of the competition.

W5AC members have a "once-in-a-decade" opportunity to observe/participate in the next USA ARDF Championships since it will be so close. The Sixteenth USA National ARDF Championships will be held at Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen, TX, April 6 - 10, 2016.

A Link to a Trail Map of the Parrie Haynes Ranch:



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http://www.parriehaynesequestriancenter.com/uploads/New_PHR_Equestrian_Center_Trail_Map.pdf

The four ARDF Courses will be set in various sections of the Ranch. Actual Start and Finish Gate locations will not be revealed until the day of each event.

Respectively submitted,

Martin Nau/W5MHN
TAMU ARC Secretary

Callsign Index:

KZ3G Bill Preston
KF5TYT Mark Racciato
KG5GDV Yucheng Guo
KG5JYY Kevin Saygi
KG5JYZ Spenser Capps
KG5JZA Russ Garetson
W5AC Texas A&M Amateur Radio Club
W5MHN Martin Nau
W5QZ Dave Gent