



W5AC Texas A&M University Amateur Radio Club



Thursday, January 21, 2016

Draft Minutes from the TAMU ARC Monthly Business Meeting

President/KG5GDV called the meeting to order at 1930. Vice-President/KG5JYY, Treasurer/KF5TYT and Secretary/W5MHN were also present. There were 7 voting members, 4 non-voting members and 2 visitors present. The quorum requirement was certified by W5MHN.

President's Report: KG5GDV informed the club that foxhunts will change this semester. They will alternate between Fridays and Thursdays each week to provide an opportunity for more members to participate if their schedules have them locked out of one day or the other. Tomorrow, Friday, January 22, will be a hunt and then the following Thursday, January 28th, will be the next fox hunt. We will meet at Sully at 15:30 until later in the spring, when the sun stays up longer, at which time we will slide the times back to 16:00.

Vice-Presidents Report: KG5JYY reported that T-Shirts are in and will be for sale for \$10.00. He further informed the club that the soda mess will be up and running by the end of the January. There will be a lock box to pay for items and we are on the honor system.

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. A \$50 donation was received from a former member - Cooper Barry/AF50C. Thanks, Cooper!

Secretary's Report: W5MHN reviewed the minutes from the December 2015 Monthly Business Meeting. Motion from KO5TER, seconded by KG5JYY to accept the minutes as read - the motion passed on a voice vote.



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QSL Manager's Report: W5MHN reported that the clubs DXCC status is 302 Mixed Entities worked (302 last month), 293 confirmed (292 last month), and 14 new slots filled in the band/mode matrix. He and W5QZ took a road trip over the holiday break to Houston to see a card checker and had 8 ATNOs confirmed from QSL cards along with some miscellaneous slots for the band/mode matrix. Our application has been received by the ARRL and is in the queue. Current processing time is 4-8 weeks at which time W5AC will have over 300 confirmed contacts in the DXCC program. He emphasized that the club will still chase DX but as the club has already achieved one of the major goals of this academic year, he laid out the following opportunities for the club to excel.

ARRL NPOTA: The ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event runs in parallel with the National Park Service's centennial. The program runs from 0000 UTC January 1, 2016 through 2359 UTC December 31, 2016. The goals of National Parks on the Air are:

- a) Promote the capabilities of Amateur Radio to the general public through operations at eligible NPS Administrative Units.
- b) Promote the NPS Centennial and the heritage of the National Park System through Amateur Radio.
- c) Encourage portable Amateur Radio operation from as many of the officially-listed National Park Service administrative units and recognized Affiliated Areas as possible.

W5AC current status as a chaser has 23 park entities confirmed on the leader board and 6 parks confirmed on the honor roll. W5QZ added that we can take the club portable to the El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail as an activator over the course of this calendar year. He has purchased NPOTA banner from the ARRL and has scouted several locations at which to operate.

Triple Play: W5AC earned its Worked All States award in 1965. This was a mixed mode award. Since then, the ARRL has come out with the Triple Play award. It involves working all of the states once each in CW, Voice, and a digital mode. There are plenty of opportunities for individuals to fill in open slots in all three categories.

5-band Worked All States: Similar to Worked All States with the modification that each state must be worked once, in any mode, on the five contest bands (80, 40, 20, 15, 10)



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Current statuses of NPOTA, Triple Play, and 5-band WAS are posted on the shack bulletin board.

Director of Repeater Operations: Brazos County ARES has acquired a new call, N5BRZ, and will be coordinating with the Texas VHF FM society to administratively reassign the W5AC B repeater to N5BRZ. In the meantime, KE5ISM, in coordination with NU5D renewed the repeater allocation until the transfer goes through. This is an administrative action only; W5AC has no ownership of any of the equipment or facilities with the N5BRZ repeater.

Newsletter Editor: W5XTT is looking for items for the next newsletter, such as recent tower maintenance, our final standing in the Fall School Club Roundup, any preparations for the Sixteenth USA National ARDF Championships in Killeen, Texas, April 6-10, 2016, a schedule of upcoming operations this semester, new members or testing sessions, license upgrades, and possibly the idea of selecting a random club member and putting a spotlight section. Submit anything you might like to see published to the clubofficers@w5ac.tamu.edu email address.

Club Business:

Old Business:

- a. **Google Services Account:** NTR; still waiting.
- b. **5XB:** N5TLT reported we have acquired a lock similar to the front door but it is not currently compatible with the 5XB door. He is checking with the manufacturer for a possible modification or conversion. The committee is also considering other options at the point too before it makes its final recommendation.
- c. **MSC Open House:** W5MHN briefed the Spring MSC Open House. It will take place on Sunday, January 24, 2016 from 1300-1600. Set up will commence at 11:30 and tear down will occur immediately afterwards. If anyone would like to take a



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shift at the booth to help promote our club and hobby, just show up.

- d. **Winch:** W5QZ reported that he and W5MHN swapped out the broken winch for a replacement over the holiday break and returned the original to the tower manufacture for diagnosis. This winch was acquired at a significant discount but is the same type/model as the previous unit and will eventually be subject to the same wear and tear and as such is not a long term solution. W5QZ and tower manufacturer are continuing dialog on options.
- e. **Rotor:** W5QZ, KF5TYT, and W5MHN tackled the rotator replacement over the holiday break. They tilted the tower but were unable to fish the old rotor out through the central shaft of the tower while the mast was present. They did not wish to remove the antenna from the mast so they righted the tower. After further in depth discussions K05TER made the motion and N5TLT seconded that the club allocate no more than \$1,000 to purchase a TiltPlate mount for the antenna. The motion passed 6-1 with no abstentions. W5QZ will research and purchase the TiltPlate. Once it arrives, the club will schedule a working party to remove the antenna and rotor, ship the bad rotor back for warranty work, install the new rotor, the mast, TiltPlate and raise the tower. Additionally, while working on the tower, they noticed that the brakes/pegs that lock the tower in the raised position are sticking due to release cord design. This will also be addressed as they have the tower down for work.

New Business:

- a. **School Club Round up:** KG5GDV briefed the Winter/Spring ARRL School Club Roundup will be February 8-12, 2016. Our main purpose last Fall was to introduce our members to Radiosport Contesting. With a little more planning, we can improve our score and maybe finish first in the Spring Roundup. He will promulgate a sign up schedule via email.
- b. **SAREX:** N5SBN reported that that Brazos Valley Search and Rescue will have an exercise on Saturday, February 20, from



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08:00-13:00 at Lick Creek Park and is offering anyone the opportunity to come out and learn about staging and communications during exercises. Further information will be forthcoming via the listserve.

- c. **Advanced Skywarn:** N5SBN informed the club that the National Weather Service will be putting on an Advanced Skywarn Program at the Brazos Center on April 16. Historically, NWS has put on Basic Programs when in the area so this will be an excellent opportunity.
- d. **Furniture/Equipment Donations:** N5TLT and KE5ISM coordinated donations from their respective offices. The club has a new desk, dry erase board, equipment rack, projector, screen, and ceiling mount.

Good of the Order:

- a. **AGGISatLab:** KM4OPI reported that the ground station is mostly completed. They will be releasing their satellite on January 29 to be followed by commencement of operations.
- b. **Bryan-College Station Holiday Parade:** N5SBN thanked the club for the assistance of our 6 personnel and the use of both the .82 machine and digipeater during the BCS parade. He then gave a brief rundown of some of the after action items to help the parade run a bit smoother in future years.

Next Meeting: The January Monthly Business meeting will be at the shack on Thursday, February 11, 2015 at 19:30.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 20:40.

Program: KG5JYY postponed the program due the meeting running long.

Respectively submitted,



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Martin Nau/W5MHN
TAMU ARC Secretary

Callsign Index:

KE5ISM Eric Laird
KF5TYT Mark Racciato
KG5GDV Yucheng Guo
KG5JYY Kevin Saygi
KM4OPI Daniel Ghan
KZ5M Mike Mertes
K05TER Glen Koster
N5TLT Kevin Glueck
NU5D Steve Bosshard
W5AC Texas A&M Amateur Radio Club
W5MHN Martin Nau
W5QZ Dave Gent
W5XTT Tom Talley