



W5AC Texas A&M University Amateur Radio Club



Thursday, September 10, 2015

DRAFT Minutes from the TAMU ARC Monthly Business Meeting

President/KG5GDV called the meeting to order at 1900. Vice-President & Treasurer/KF5TYT and Secretary/W5MHN were also present. There were 8 voting members, 2 non-voting members and 8 visitors present.

President's Report: KG5GDV opened the floor for nominations for officers for the club. After some discussion, N5TLT nominated and W5QZ seconded the current slate of officers for the following positions:

President: Yucheng Guo/KG5GDV
Vice-President: Mark Racciato/KF5TYT
Treasurer: Mark Racciato/KF5TYT
Secretary: Martin Nau/W5MHN

Elections will occur at the October business meeting.

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

Secretary's Report: W5MHN reviewed the minutes from the May 2015 Monthly Business Meeting. Motion from W5XTT, seconded by W5QZ to accept the minutes as read - the motion passed on a voice vote.

Station Trustee's/Director of Repeater Operations' Report: KZ5M gave a brief overview of the status of the 2-meter repeater and stated that there have been no reported violations recently.

QSL Manager's Report: W5MHN provided a status update of recent QSO confirmations. He pointed out that the club is at 285 confirmed entries in the ARRL's DX Century Club (DXCC). First established in 1937, and restarted after World War II, the ARRL DXCC is earned by



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amateurs who submit confirmation for contacts with 100 or more entities on the The ARRL DXCC List, which as of December 31, 2014 stands at 340 entities. He further stated that based on currently scheduled future activity, the club has the opportunity to reach 300 entities by the end of the 2015-2016 academic year. To aid in chasing these DX entities he pointed out a few tools (DX-pedition and Special Event Station listings, the Contest Corral, and select propagation forecasts) located in the shack that members can use to plan club station activities as well as for their own use in adding to their logbooks.

Club Business:

Old Business:

- a. Skirting/Flashing around the building has been repaired.
- b. Force 12: The antenna build and initial installation is complete. The loading coils that were missing arrived over the summer and were installed. Fine tuning of the tips, permanent transmission lines, and other details will be discussed at an Executive Committee session. Additionally, the 20-meter dipole was replaced by a temporary 80-meter dipole installation. W5AC is now active on 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10-meters in the HF spectrum. See program notes below for more.

New Business:

- a. Club Constitution: W5MHN presented proposed modifications to the current club constitution that resulted from the Executive Committee's Annual Review of the document. There will be a one month review and comment period followed by a vote at the next regular meeting in October. Copies of the current and amended versions will be posted in the shack and on the website.

Good of the Order:

- a. KG5GDV reminded everyone that the club holds Foxhunts on main campus every Friday from 4:00 - 6:00pm. We meet at Sully for our base of operations.
- b. W5QZ reported that the recent MSC Open House was setup and staffed by KZ3G, KF5TYT, KG5GDV, W5MHN, and W5QZ. Several



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prospects signed up to obtain further information. Two more Open Houses were conducted at the W5AC Shack on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (by KF5TYT, KG5GDV, W5MHN and W5QZ) which included on-the-air radio demonstrations, Shack Tour, fellowship, and snacks. All three events resulted in several new members joining W5AC.

Next Meeting: The October Monthly Business meeting will be at the shack on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 1930.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1948.

Program: Force-12 Antenna Build and W5AC Shack Organization.

W5QZ (Antenna Trail Boss) presented a detailed summary of the Force-12 antenna build that occurred over the summer. It began with an inventory and organization of parts which discovered that we were missing a few items. This was soon rectified with the company's headquarters. This was followed by the assembly of elements, which due to summer classes took a few weeks to accomplish. Additionally, during this phase some parts had to be fabricated locally so there were many trips to local hardware stores. Once the elements were complete, less the tips, it was time to prepare the site out back of the shack. The area around the shack had become overgrown with grasses and weeds and littered with debris. In between mowing, treating Johnson grass, hauling off the clubs former walkway and decking, chasing off rodents and dealing with a rather upset water moccasin, this took a few weeks. Next, the tower was lowered and tipped on its side a few times for rough mast measurements, drilling of the rotor and bearing plates, installation of the thrust bearing and rotator, and finally the insertion of the mast. The antenna was then moved out-doors and through several rain and wind storms, the boom was put together, the elements attached to the boom and their respective tips inserted and aligned to specifications, and baluns were prepared and installed. Finally, on a calm day, the boom was attached to the mast, trusses were secured, transmission line and rotor cable was run, the rotor was



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adjusted to the antenna heading and before the tower was cranked upright, a 2-m/70-cm vertical antenna was attached to the tip of the mast. Once raised, SWR readings were taken and logged for the 6 bands. Not included in the presentation due to time constraints, the team then scrounged around in the shack for wire and modified the former 20-meter dipole so that it is now an 80-meter dipole. Once the antennas were in place and operational, the inside of the shack was tackled. At the conclusion of last semester, the shack was in a bit of disarray so rooms were cleaned out, organized, designated and labeled. Items were unpacked and stored, furniture and cabinets were acquired from surplus, pig-tails and connectors were fabricated, the patch panel was modified, grounding and coax runs were put in place, and some interior decorating was carried out to make our club a more welcoming and pleasing environment.

While more work is still needed at the shack, the team of W5QZ and W5MHN with assistance from KF5TZN and KE5ISM did an amazing job transforming the stations capabilities over the summer and are to be congratulated.

Respectively submitted,

Martin Nau/W5MHN
TAMU ARC Secretary

Callsign Index:

KZ3G Bill Preston
KE5ISM Eric Laird
KF5TYT Mark Racciato
KF5TZN Kyle Flaherty
KG5GDV Yucheng Guo
KZ5M Mike Mertes
N5TLT Kevin Glueck
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W5MHN Martin Nau

W5QZ Dave Gent

W5XTT Tom Talley

