



W5AC

## Texas A&M University Amateur Radio Club



Thursday, 07 March 2019

### Minutes from the March 2019 General Business Meeting

President/KG5SDD called the meeting to order at 0135Z. Treasurer/KG5YRW, QSL Manager/W5MHN, Webmaster/AG5JH, and Secretary/KE0MXN were also present. Fifteen voting members were physically present, and five visitors were present.

#### Officer Reports

- **President's Report**
  - **T-Shirts:** KG5SDD reported that little has changed since the last meeting. The club is looking into the T-Shirt design in preparation for Belton Hamfest.
  - **Pest Control:** KG5SDD noted that the spraying has killed most of the bugs.
- **Vice President's Report**
  - **Helix:** WG1GEM reported that the club needs to find working helix for the repeater.
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - **Account Balances:** KG5YRW delivered a report on the state of the club's finances.
- **Secretary's Report**
  - **February Meeting Minutes:** KE0MXN read the February meeting minutes.
- **QSL Manager's Report**
  - **DXCC:** W5MHN reported that the DXCC list has not changed since the February meeting.
  - **QSL Cards:** W5MHN reported that several QSL cards had been received for the School Club Roundup, and issued a request for more QSL cards as the supply fell below 100 cards.
  - **CQ Muster QSL Cards:** W5MHN remarked that the club should consider getting CQ Muster QSL Cards now if it wants to. KE0MXN et al. agreed.
  - **Replacement:** W5MHN is graduating in May and has noted that KI5CWD is training to replace him.
- **Historian's Report**
  - **Woodpecker:** W5QZ played audio of the infamous Woodpecker transmissions interfering with National Institute of Standards and Technology radio-time station WWV. The Woodpecker transmissions came from two locations in the USSR in the 1970s and 80s.
    - The antennas were around 300 feet tall, the transmit power was 10 MW, and the transmitter was so RF-noisy that the receiver was in another Soviet Republic.
    - The transmissions were a RADAR signal that bounced off the ionosphere and into the West.
    - W5QZ reported that the Woodpecker was shut down by satellites exceeding the capabilities of RADAR, by amateur radio operators interfering with the signal, and by the incident in Chernobyl. The station in Chernobyl still remains.
    - Amateur radio operators also sent several requests to PO Box 88, Moscow, for the shutdown.

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- **Webmaster's Report**
  - **Update:** AG5JH reported that the updated website should be done over Spring Break. KI5CLW asked if the mobile version would follow a mobile-friendly format, and AG5JH responded that it would
- **Director of Operation's Report**
  - **Belton and Houston Hamfest:** KI5BVJ reported that W5AC intends to go to both Houston and Belton Hamfests and that interested parties should contact the ListServ soon.
  - **CQ Muster:** KI5BVJ reported that W5AC needs operators for CQ Muster and KZ3G asked if W5AC would involve Corps of Cadets members and do Muster on the quad. W5AC suggested so.

### Motions and Votes

- **Treasurer's Report:** KI5CWD motioned to accept the treasurer's report, KM4OPI seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. The meeting of the quorum requirement of eight members was certified by KE0MXN.
- **February Meeting Minutes:** KG5HZE motioned to accept the February Meeting Minutes as read. KZ3G seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. The meeting of the quorum requirement of eight members was certified by KE0MXN.
- **Constitutional Amendment 2018-2019-4:** KI5CLW motioned to accept the amendment. KM4OPI requested a point of information about how the change would not reintroduce conflict, and KG5SDD responded that the non-voting membership option corrected the problem. KZ3G seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. The meeting of the quorum requirement of eight members was certified by KE0MXN.
- **Constitutional Amendment 2018-2019-5:** KE0MXN read the new amendment. W5MHN, KM4OPI, and KE0MXN discussed changes necessary to keep the intent of some sentences in the amendment, and it was modified before being postponed. KI5CLW motioned to postpone the amendment for vote until the April 2019 meeting, KZ3G seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition. The meeting of the quorum requirement of eight members was certified by KE0MXN.

### Club Business

- **Old Business**
  - **CQ Muster:** KE0MXN et al. reported that on 21 April 2019, the club will hold CQ Muster net at 1900, with the VHF net being move to 2100 on the same day. The executive committee is still looking for volunteers to run this event. The CQ Muster will be held from 19-22 April 2019. This current basic schedule plan was proposed: 0900-1700L on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with various modes on HF during this time. At 1800L on Sunday, have the HF net (conditions permitting), and then continue at-will until campus Muster on Monday. KZ3G suggested the club operate on campus, specifically in the Quad. W5MHN requested QSL card designs.
  - **ARRL School Club Roundup:** KE0MXN noted that the club competed in the School Club Roundup but that results were not yet reported.

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### • New Business

- **Ideas by W5MHN:** W5MHN suggested having a cookoff or bowling tournament to finish the year. W5MHN et al. suggested improving signage, and W5QZ et al. responded that temporary signage is allowed but permanent signage is a liability. KZ3G et al. suggested working with Chilifest, but W5AC said that it would be difficult.
- **Grounding:** W5MHN also suggested that W5AC finish grounding the station. W5QZ remarked that the locations for the grounding rods are both marked and well-off and that there should not be much under the ground to worry about other than the power lines which were moved under the shack, and that the University did not consider RF when it installed the current grounding. KZ3G suggested that it be done the right way the first time, and asked if W5AC would get hold of the University to mark the ground or perform the work. KZ3G remarked that tools for the ground rod insertion are available when needed.
- **2021:** KI5BVJ suggested that W5AC contact K5LSU about arranging a transmission of the football game to honor the 1921 transmission of the TAMU-t.u. game.
- **QSL Cards:** N5AC et al. jokingly noted that W5AC should use the Flex Radio waterfall but color it maroon and write "Gig 'Em Aggies" in the waterfall for the QSL card.
- **Newsline:** WG1GEM proposed having a news line over the repeater.
- **Openings:** KG5SDD noted that the Executive Committee is looking for a Director of Public Relations and Director of Traffic Handling. The EC is also looking for anyone who would like to run a net or two. Interested parties should email [clubofficers@w5ac.tamu.edu](mailto:clubofficers@w5ac.tamu.edu).
- **Ham Club Online:** KE0MXN noted that the club moved to the Ham Club Online service for member management on 1 March 2019.
- **Logging:** KE0MXN and W5MHN noted that the club ought to decide to either move to an all-paper log or an all-digital log.
- **Elections:** W5MHN remarked that the club needs volunteers for chairing elections at the next two meetings. KI5BVJ and KM4OPI were floated as candidates.

### Good of the Order

- **W5BCS Meeting:** The W5BCS meeting will be held on 16 January 2019 at 0930L at Fire Station Six in College Station.
- **W5AC March Meeting:** Because of Spring Break, the W5AC March business meeting will occur on 07 March 2019 at 1930L.
- **School Club Roundup:** W5AC participated in SCR from 11 January to 15 January 2019.
- **Texas State Parks on the Air:** KG5YRW volunteered his camping gear, but would need a ride to participate. KZ3G remarked that the club could camp overnight with the antennas if W5AC asks the park rangers.
- **W6RO:** KZ3G remarked that on W6RO, with permission of the station manager, anyone is allowed to operate on the ship (the Queen). W5QZ remarked that in Arizona at the Titan Missile Museum, a similar setup is available for amateur use on an 80 ft discone antenna.

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- **WW0WWV:** KE0MXN remarked that for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWV, the local club needs operators for their special event station in September.

**Adjourn:** At 0243Z, KI5CLW motioned to adjourn. KI5CWD seconded this motion, and it passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 0243Z.

**Test Session:** At the conclusion of the meeting, KI5CWD passed her E3 and E4 exams to become an Amateur Extra class operator.

**Presentation:** KD5FGE, N5AC, and VA3MW presented on FlexRadio Systems, the FLEX Maestro, and the FLEX 6700. W5AC thanks them for coming out to demonstrate this equipment and share stories with us!

**Addendum:** After the meeting, KZ3G et al. discussed putting together a drive for W5AC members with a multi-year plan. Anyone wishing to join that drive should contact one of the club officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jace Nelson / KE0MXN

TAMU ARC Secretary



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Membership (2019)

Dave Gent	W5QZ
Kevin Glueck	N5TLT
Alexander Olah	KI5BVJ
Chris Gillett	KF5IBA
Matthew Komitsky	N/A
Martin Nau	W5MHN
Joshua Shaffer	AG5JH
Daniel Ghan	KM4OPI
Patrick Manning	KI5BVI
Jacob Morgan	KG5SDD
Jace Nelson	KE0MXN
Bill Preston	KZ3G
Matthew Conn	KG5VGM
Max Witek	KG5YRW
Connor Farrell	WG1GEM
Corder Guy	W5RHT
Santosh Ganji	KI5AVL
Michael Asher Nelson	N/A
Max Lesser	KG5HZE
Skyelar Head	KG5WZL
Evan Spencer	KG5ZZA
Emily Newby	KI5CWD
Ethan Galloway	KG5CBZ
Don Arnold	KI5BPM
Steve Hicks	N5AC
Matt Youngblood	KD5FGE
Robert Preston	KI6KYX
Justin Spotts	KG5ZGN
Mike Walker	VA3MW