



W5AC

Texas A&M University Amateur Radio Club



Wednesday, 04 December 2019

Minutes from the December 2019 General Business Meeting

President/WG1GEM called the meeting to order at 1944L, Secretary/KE0MXN was also present. Twelve voting members were physically present. In all, thirteen individuals were present.

Officer Reports

- **President's Report**
 - **Introductions:** WG1GEM had all members introduce themselves.
- **Vice President's Report**
 - **Shirts:** KG5HZE noted that the club is working on T-Shirts and needs to work on community outreach. *See "Motions and Votes"*.
 - **Foxhole Radio:** W5QZ noted that he will present on foxhole radios at the January Business Meeting.
 - **Foxhunt:** *See "Good of the Order"*.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - *See "Motions and Votes"*.
- **Secretary's Report**
 - **Foxhole Radio:** Gaurav noted that he will build a foxhole radio during the week of 12 December. He requests assistance from one or two people. W5QZ asked what type of radio Gaurav intended to build, to which Gaurav responded that he would build an FM radio. KZ3G remarked that FM would be more complex, and W5QZ noted that it would be easier to build an AM radio. Gaurav noted that he will instead build an AM radio. *Continued in "Vice Presidents Report"*.
 - **Meeting Minutes:** *See "Motions and Votes"*.

Director Reports

- **QSL Manager's Report**
 - **Cards:** KE0MXN noted that cards had arrived from Sint Maarten, and passed around a large pile of recently-received QSL cards.
- **Director of Operations' Report**
 - **Rotor:** KI5BVJ noted that the club had repaired the rotor and that it was working. WG1GEM remarked that the rotor was again not working as he could not hear the brake mechanism (dis)-engage. *Continued in "Addendum" and "November Recap"*.
- **Historian's Report**
 - **QSL Cards:** W5QZ passed around rare QSL cards collected from his time with the bureau. Some entities present: 3DA (Swaziland), AO5 (Antarctica) CE0Y (Easter Island), E6 (Pacific Niue), FT5 (Amsterdam Island), VP8 (Sandwich Islands), XV9 (Vietnam), and ZD8 (Ascension Island). He also passed around several special event QSL cards, such as one for 50 years since the moon

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landing, one for the naval vessel that retrieved the Apollo capsules, and one for the 100th year of WWV. He also passed around some QSL inclusions (items included in QSL card mailings): military crossband certificate, Department of Defense code proficiency certificate, Collins S-Line print.

- **Remote Members and Crossband:** The Collins S-Line print included an invitation to join their club. W5QZ further remarked that the Armed Forces have a crossband exercise where the DoD transmits on military frequencies near the ham bands, and hams can transmit on ham frequencies in split operation for a QSO.
- **Entities:** W5QZ noted that individual DXCC entities are countries or territories that must be 200 km away from their mainland country. He has worked 354, there are 339 active now, and W5AC has 305 awarded but 310 worked.
- **Foxhunting:** See “Good of the Order.”
- **Victory over Japan:** W5QZ noted that he had a VJ memento signed by Enola Gay pilot Tibbets, and that he would be willing to present on it and other famous amateur radio operators if requested.
 - **Club Suggestion:** KZ3G noted that Eagle Scouts and others send out letters of introduction to famous folks (the President of the United States, Congresspersons, or Celebrities) to let them know about their qualification to Eagle Scout, and that many send keepsakes back. KZ3G suggests the club consider something of the sort for its members.
- **Director of Repeater Operations’ Report**
 - *Not present.*
- **Website Manager’s Report**
 - *Not Present*

November Recap

- **Dayton:** W5QZ noted that Dayton was getting smaller. Still, it has ~35k attendees from many countries over three days. There are many presentations on different facets of the hobby, giveaways, many shuttle busses, and really good food. W5QZ noted that anyone who goes to Dayton should go to the Air Force museum at Wright-Patterson and Mendelsons (an older building with many mechanical devices acquired by the family that owns it over 50-60 years). W5QZ noted that he found Selsyns at Mendelsons and would present on that and other things found at Mendelsons if asked.
- **Repeater:** WG1GEM reported that the club received a generous donation of a new VHF repeater, including PA, duplexer, and cables. KZ3G noted that a gentlewoman in Hearne has tried several times to get into the repeater but it only sometimes works.
- **Rotor:** KG5HZE and KI6KYX commented that the rotor was replaced during November, and that the rotor now turns. Four members took about four hours, and found that the U-bolts need replaced.

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Motions and Votes:

- **Treasurer's Report:** WG1GEM read the treasurer's report, which KG5HZE motioned to accept and which KZ3G seconded. The motion passed without opposition. KE0MXN certified that the meeting had quorum.
- **November Meeting Minutes:** KE0MXN noted that the minutes were sent out over the listserv. KG5HZE motioned to accept the minutes and KI5BVJ seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. KE0MXN certified that the meeting had quorum.
- **T-Shirts:** KI5CWC asked when t-shirts would be done. Several club members expressed concern that no t-shirts had materialized. KG5HZE and KI5CLW asked to be placed on a committee to take on the t-shirt design process. KZ3G et al. motioned to accept the request. The motion passed without opposition. KE0MXN certified that the meeting had quorum.
- **Future Schedule:** KG5HZE proposed adopting KE0MXN's schedule for 2020, specifically moving the January meeting to 23 January 2020 at 19:30 and that the 2020 Spring Informational will be on Tuesday, 21 January 2020 at 19:00 in the W5AC shack. KG5HZE motioned to accept the change, and KI5CLW seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. KE0MXN certified that the meeting had quorum.

Good of the Order:

- **W5BCS Meeting:** W5BCS will have their monthly meeting at 0930L on Saturday, 21 December 2019. It will be at the Red Cross on Boonville. Members from BCS meet at Coco-LoCo at 0730L each Saturday if anyone wants to join.
- **Workday:** The club discussed a general-purpose workday on 14-15 December for both the Foxhunt and rotor repair.
- **Winter Field Day:** KE0MXN noted that WFD will be on 25-26 January. KG5HZE asked if the club wanted to join W5BCS for WFD. W5QZ noted that the club could instead operate from the shack on temporary power. KZ3G, KI5CLW, W5QZ noted that they could provide generators, and KZ3G noted that the club could ask for help from N5BRZ with their van.
- **Texas State Parks on the Air:** KE0MXN noted that TSPOTA will be 18-19 April, 2020.
- **Nets:** No nets will be held until 13 January 2020.
- **W5AC:** KI5CLW noted that the club had been licensed for 107 years with the same callsign.
- **Challenge:** KZ3G challenged the club to get a QSL card from North Korea.
- **Christmas Parade:** The parade will be the weekend following this meeting.
- **Foxhunt:** Foxhunting was brought up numerous times.
 - **Type:** W5QZ noted that there are multiple events for foxhunts internationally which ought to be considered when scheduling a foxhunt. One such event is orienteering, where participants receive a map and waypoints that get you to ~100m away where you then use a rig to find the transmitter. Small competition rigs are needed, and the Ukrainians usually win this event. For orienteering, participants go on foot, the event is timed, all five transmitters must be found, order is not important, and participants use a homing beacon at the starting point to return.

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Athleticism is a prerequisite for this event, so it is divided into age-based categories. W5QZ noted that he is willing to present on this topic in the future if requested. He further noted that the best W5AC member he trained in foxhunting won a bronze medal but couldn't go to the international competition because he was not a U.S. citizen.

- **How:** KZ3G noted that the club could have a Saturday get-together for the foxhunt. KZ3G further remarked that Joe, a well-renowned foxhunter, might be willing to participate. KZ3G noted that KG5YRW is in geology and that during one of their camps they do a lot of orienteering in Utah. The club noted that perhaps some of those individuals would be interested in participating in W5AC's foxhunts.
- **Trial Run:** Several dates were mentioned for a Foxhunt and Trial Run. Monday, 20 January 2020 was suggested to be used for a trial run by KE0MXN. The club did not vote on any dates, and will discuss by email instead. For the trial run, W5QZ asked whether the club wanted to do a foxhunt by car or foot. The club decided by foot for the first run, to which W5QZ responded with the following plan:
 - *Plan Plank I:* W5AC should have a trial-run of the actual foxhunt.
 - *Plan Plank II:* W5AC should notify UPD of the event.
 - *Plan Plank III:* W5AC should create teams of three, and each member in the team will go to a different on-campus parking garage (WCG, UCG, NSG) and on 2m find bearings to a remote-controlled transmitter. Each team member should then communicate by radio (over W5AC-VHF) and map their bearings to find a location.
 - *Plan Plank IV:* W5AC should consider giving prizes to the most accurate team.

W5QZ and KZ3G noted that walking could be a bit more tricky to coordinate on campus. KG5INI suggested renting out the W5AC Baofengs for foxhunting. W5QZ commented that if W5AC wanted to do the walking foxhunt, it could be done near the equestrian facility or at a park. He further noted that if the club wanted to get serious about the event, the club should purchase the memory sticks and 80m equipment as well.

Adjourn: At 2100L, KI5CLW and KG5HZE motioned to adjourn the meeting until 23 January 2020 at 1930L. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2101L.

Respectfully submitted,
Jace Nelson / KE0MXN
W5AC Secretary

Addendum: The rotor was determined to be working, despite a feeble sound from (dis)-engaging the braking mechanism. Only those trained on proper rotor operation should use the rotor.

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Callsign Index:

KE0MXN Jace Nelson

KE5ISM Eric Laird

KG5INI Nick Petta

KG5HZE Max Lesser

KG5SDD Jacob Morgan

KG5YRW Max Witek

KI5BVJ Alex Olah

KI5CLW Alex Hueselbusch

KI5CWD Emily Newby

KI5DRO Robert Filloramo

KI5GIH Michael Nelson

KI6KYX Robert Preston

KZ3G Bill Preston

N5TLT Kevin Glueck

W5AC Texas A&M University Amateur Radio Club

W5BCS Bryan Amateur Radio Club

W5MHN Marty Nau

W5QZ David Gent

WA5MWD David Cheek

WG1GEM Connor Farrell

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