

Approved –9 May 2005

**Houston Echo Society Meeting
American Red Cross Building
March 14, 2005**

Meeting Participants Present

Marty Blaise, AG5T –President
Kent Marshall, W5TXV – Vice President
Richard Banks, WC5O - Treasurer
Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE – Recording Secretary
Mike Nault, W5OFT – Corresponding Secretary
Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT – Parliamentarian

Members Present

Name	Call Sign	ARRL Member?
Richard Banks	WC5O	No
Wayne Barker	AD8A	Yes
Howard Bingham	KE5APJ	YES
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
Mike Davidson	N5MT	YES
David Enderli	KC5LWZ	YES
Charles “Frosty” Frost	K5LBU	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
John Moore	KK5NU	No
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Mark Tyler	K5GQ	YES
Michael Urich	KA5CVH	YES
Ed White	W7KSX	
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Val Phoenix	KG2PM	YES
Phil Swartztrauber	W5GCT	
Michael Urich	KA5CVH	YES

The meeting was called to order approximately 7:35pm.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Presentation by Wayne Barker – AD8A
- Old Business
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and News letter

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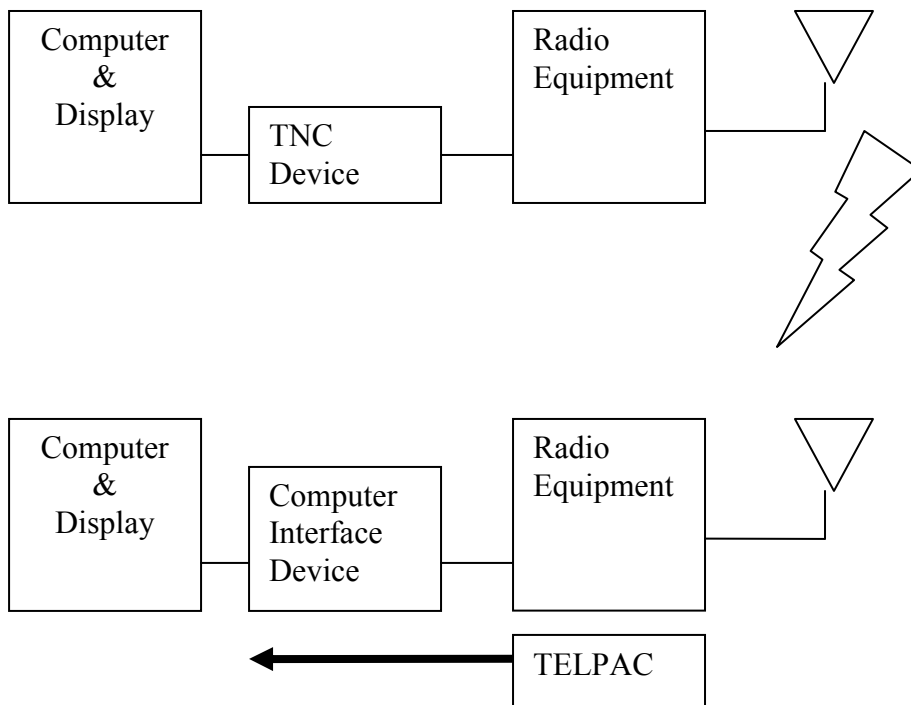
- New Business
 - Meeting Dates and Time
 - Election of Officers
 - Other business
- Projects/ Demonstrations

Marty opened the meeting. All introduced themselves.

Presentation

Wayne Barker, AD8A, presented “WINLINK – A Method Of Sending Email – The Preferred Method for ARES”

- Wayne covered the history of the original computer connections: the development of serial communications with modems; ARPA and Internet; telnet and terminal programs, email (SMTP) and POP Servers
- To support Red Cross we need laptops, radio, and a method of providing text communications
- Packet radio using a TNC and AX25 protocol are supported terminal-to-terminal communication methods
- One can buy a Kantronics (<http://www.kantronics.com/>) TNC that can do both UHF/VJF and HF protocols or one can use the sound card and software on a PC to emulate the packet radio. The newest interface box between your rig and the PC runs from as little as \$25 to over \$100.
- SV2AV (from Greece) wrote some software to function as TNS software to use the PC's sound card. It may be referred to as AGWP.
- Sailmail (<http://www.sailmail.com/>) was developed for use over HF radio by a group of Yacht owners and mariners
- The objective of the SailMail station is not to provide "Internet Access" in any general sense but instead to allow sailors to send and receive plain-text Internet email from the high seas. These transfer rates, while stunningly slow by modern standards, are sufficient for sending and receiving plain-text email messages. For example an email message that could fit on one half of a type-written page would comprise about 1000 characters, and would take 2 to 90 seconds to transfer.
- The elements of Sailmail (combo with other programs) is easily transferred to the Red Cross' needs after a hurricane or disaster.
- The airmail setup looks like this



- Airmail looks like “Outlook.” It uses designators such as “KD5WHD-10” as the telpac node at the Red Cross building on 145.05 simplex {just point your antenna at the Red Cross building}
- Airmail is free to Amateur Radio Operators, but a commercial venture to mariners
- Most implementation use telpac to pretend to be a telnet server
- Telpac retrieves any messages for your Airmail account; talks to PMB0; sends your messages
- WINLINK never uses Internet for Internode packet or message transportation
- There is a push to consolidate APRS nodes and Airmail input nodes
- The link www.findu.com will provide an APRS and Airmail node list
- Wayne urges everyone to get a GPS unit! Findu.com will plot where you are!
- ARES needs this type of communications capabilities
- The link www.winlink.org has information on how to put all the pieces together
- TELPAC uses standard labels but uses compression so the text of messages looks like gibberish
- Nodes don’t automatically forward, but usually can digi-peate
- PMB0 is run by the original developers of the software
- A full presentation is available on www.winlink.org
- TAPR has packet radio resources – www.tapr.org
-

PACLINK + AGWPE + Sound Card = TNC

- AGWPE has a free and a pay version

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Experts on Airmail

- Hal Merrick
- Doug, W5ECC
- Glenn Tower

Announcements:

-

Old Business

- Meetings –**SECOND MONDAY of each month.** The general meeting would start at 7:30 pm and the pre-meeting, eating meeting at 6:00 pm. The first instance was March 14, 2005.
- Repeaters 147.08 –

New Business

- **Elections Results:**

President	Marty Blaise, AG5T
Vice President,	Kent Marshall, W5TXV
Treasurer	Richard Banks, WC5O
Correspondence Secretary	Mike Nault, W5OFT
Recording Secretary	Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE
Parliamentarian	Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT
Web master	Michael Urich, KA5CVH
Membership Chair	_____ OPEN _____
Newsletter Editor	_____ OPEN _____

K5NAV – Section Communications Manager

- **Field Day**
 - Reporting was kept very brief. At a minimum, we'll have the ICOM 756 Pro II, The Drake TR7, and the TenTec Paragon
 - The Antennas needs work
 - Mark is pursuing the acquisition of filters

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- **Focus of Echo**
 - CERT {*Citizens' Emergency Response Team*} new Harris County Civil Defense; came out of the California wild-fire and emergencies experiences.
 - Group of Friends/ Fellowship/ Ideas
 - Hands of Activities
 - Ham Testing (VE Testing)
 - Mentoring & Elmers
 - Tuesday night nets (held on Thursday evenings for AREA SW area)
 - Three to 8 check-in weekly
 - Needs needs a focus
 - Expand to include a swap net
 - Public service activities for the club to participate in
 - Link Repeater System:
 - useful in times of emergency situations
 - may not want to link at all times, especially in an emergency
 - get ECHO repeaters on different bands linked together

- **New Member Kits**
 - Welcome letter
 - Autopatch instructions
 - Repeater etiquette guide
 - Current Roster
 - Membership card
 - Personal Speed Dial

- **Miscellaneous Discussions**
 - Discount Coupon or even free membership
 - Welcome to Amateur Radio information {BVARC flyer}
 - Put flyers at EPO and other Amateur Radio outlets
 - Marty suggested sending information on meeting and club activities to the community newspapers
 - How to keep the amateur radio operator information up-to-date – Your information & email
 - Get a copy of the presentation material for promoting our club, especially the ARRL video made by Walter Cronkite
 - Set up an information display near the guard station for Field Day with information on Amateur Radio
 - Contact local High School Clubs

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm