

Approved Version

Houston Echo Society Meeting American Red Cross Building May 9, 2005

Officers & Chairs

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President	Marty Blaise, AG5T
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President,	Kent Marshall, W5TXV
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	Richard Banks, WC5O
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence Secretary	Mike Nault, W5OFT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recording Secretary	Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parliamentarian	Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Web master	Michael Urich, KA5CVH
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Membership Chair	B. Frank Secor, Jr., KB5VSY
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor	_____ OPEN _____

K5NAV – Section Communications Manager

Members and Visitors Present

Name	Call Sign	ARRL Member?
Richard Banks	WC5O	No
Howard Bingham	KE5APJ	YES
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Frank J. Genouga	KM5RT	YES
Al Janak	W5ATP	No
Colin Jenkins	KU5B	Yes
Franz Laugermann	K3FL	YES
John Moore	KK5NU	No
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Frank Robichaux	N5EJX	YES
Paul Rubin	N8NOV	YES
B. Frank Secor, Jr.	KB5VSY	YES
Brian D. Shirclitte	AD5OS	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
Ed White	W7KSX	No

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

Agenda

- Welcome
- Presentation by Mardi Menke
- Old Business
 - Announcements
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and Newsletter
 - Treasurer's
- New Business
 - Discussion of Field Day Plans by K5GQ & WA5QXE
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 - Other business
- Projects/ Demonstrations

Marty opened the meeting. All introduced themselves.

Welcome

Everyone introduced themselves and told a short story on how they got interested in Amateur Radio as a hobby.

Presentation

None this month in lieu of Field Day discussion

Announcements:

- Marty Blaise mentioned the success of last month's presentation on CERT {*Citizens' Emergency Response Team, Harris County's new organization equivalent to the "old" Civil Defense*} by Mardi Menke. Mardi gave an overview using a slide show and video presentation.
- Public Service Events:
 - Mike Hardwick, N5ECX, is looking for volunteers for the Shiner Bash Bike Ride for May 14
Info: www.shinerbash.com
 - Mike Hardwick, N5ECX, is looking for volunteers for the Katy Flatlander Bike Ride on July 17.
Info: http://www.northwestcyclingclub.com/club/rides/kfc.html?event_id=1109249
NEED 20 OPERATORS FOR 1 DAY RIDE IN THE KATY AREA.
- The 147.00 Repeater is back on the air and requires a 103.5 Hz CTCSS tone

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- There is a Senate Bill SB 1748 in the Texas Legislation that involves Broadband over Power Line. All Amateurs should review the wording and send comments as appropriate.

Old Business

- Treasurer's report: \$2,732.86 in the bank according to Richard Banks
- Letter of Thanks: Mark K5GQ made a motion to send a letter of thanks to Mardi Menke for her presentation on CERT last meeting. The motion was seconded by Frank Robichaux .
- Repeaters Reports: 147.08 , 224.26, 147.32 all working

New Business

- **Field Day**
 - Lee covered the handout materials/ write-up information that he passed out including a Field Day Checklist derived from the Katy ARS and some FD planning notes that he has used for several years.
 - Mark, K5GQ, will cover computer based logging next meeting. Mark indicated that some "hands-on" exercise will greatly relieve the pressure of learning and operating at field day.
 - Mark spoke of going after the Digital Mode. Our total was 4% of the CW QSO's, but the digital mode carries the same multipliers as CW. Mark noted that there has been a growth in digital mode participation over the last several years.
 - Mark lead a discussion on the benefits of having a GOTO Station versus 3F status for the operating mode:
 - The GOTO Station gets you an automatic 100-point bonus. That is equivalent to 100 QSO's on phone or 50 in CW or digital mode.
 - At our "normal operating rate", we would need six hours of operating on the third transmitter to make up for the 100-point bonus and 400-point maximum score to make the three-transmitter option viable.
 - Mark discussed the filters
 - He personally purchased a 20 meter band pass filter for \$57
 - He also purchased two low-pass filter kits for \$12 each – one for 40 meters, the other for 80 meters
 - Lee has run tests on both the 20m band-pass and 40m low-pass filters and has results available
 - Mark put the 40m on his home station and completely cleared up a long running TVI & FM stereo problem he had with interfering with his XYL's listening. He now reports that it is great to operate at a full 100+ watts rather than 5W QRP (by necessity).

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- Mark is encourage by his TVI reduction that the filters by greatly eliminate the QRM we experienced last year at Field Day
- **Alternate Power:** Paul Rubin mentioned that we had sufficient solar power panel and battery to operate a small QRP station for the alternate power bonus points.
- A member in audience pointed out that 100 bonus points are equivalent to about 2 hours of operation!
- **ACTION ITEM NEXT MEETING:** Pre-write the radio grams that we intend to send during the Field Day exercise. Determine who the recipients are. John Moore is adept as sending and operating net procedure and should be able to give a demonstration on the how's and not to's of message handling.
- **ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING** Lee passed around the volunteers' lists and promised after updating the material to
 - Email the updates to everyone on the list
 - Add instructions to the TR software link
 - Send updates on Field Day planning documents to everyone who has "signed up" and any other information pertinent to Field Day
- **MOTION & VOTE:**
 - Mark made a motion to purchase an "**all band electronically switchable band-pass filter and appropriate rig controller (band switch setting decoder) for the Radio Room of the Houston Chapter of the American Red Cross to a total of approximately \$ 450.**"
 - Mark further moved that we purchase the unit prior to the 2005 Field Day and that the unit would stay in the radio room after Field Day.
 - Frank Robichaux amended the motion that the purchase be considered our donation to the Red Cross for the Echo fiscal years of 2005 and 2006.
 - Paul Rubin pointed out that the band decoder was rig sensitive and not a generalized unit. The answer to which rig to purchase the unit has yet to be decided.
 - The amendment and motion passed unanimously.
- Rig expected at Field Day: At a minimum, we'll have the ICOM 756 Pro II, The Drake TR7, and the TenTec Paragon
- The Antennas still needs work. Some that were "fixed" appear to be not behaving
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- **Membership Chair:** Frank Secor, KB5VSY, was announced to be our new Membership Chair for Echo

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm