

Key City Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Approved at the May 2021 meeting

KCARC Secretary Jacob Bachmeyer, **KE5WHG**

April 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1902 by Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ**.

Members introduced themselves. There were 22 members and 2 guests present at the meeting.

W5WI	KG8DSK	WB5FBJ	K5AVJ
K1UQI	KE5ES	WB5DUQ	KG5QH
W5SLG	WB5VIH	K5DJH	KI5PGX
KF5EL	AE5SL	K2WCS	KI5INK
KF5RQC	KE5OVV	KF5BAB	WT5X
KF5SPQ	KE5WHG	KA4UPA	

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Ayers, **KE5ES**. The invocation was given by Jim Richard, **K1UQI**.

The minutes of the March meeting were read by Jacob Bachmeyer, **KE5WHG**. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made by John Doerschuk, **KE5OVV** and seconded by Steve Roberts, **KG5QH**. *The motion was carried.*

The Treasurer's report was presented by Peg Richard, **KA4UPA** and filed for audit.

Old Business

Bike Race

Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** reported that the bicycle race went well although Murphy's Law struck as always. He served as net control for the event and had a radio malfunction during the event. We needed 15 people to work the event, and fortunately were able to find 15 volunteers.

Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** reminded all about net etiquette and voice procedure. Specifically, on a directed net, all traffic is supposed to go through net control. Before passing information, operators should call net control and wait to be acknowledged. When using tactical calls, FCC rules require transmissions to end with official call signs.

Dale Durham, **W5WI** reminded that the proper procedure to address another station on a directed net involves requesting permission from net control to contact the other station before making a direct contact. Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** commented that general practice is to also have a secondary frequency for direct contacts. Lynn Bailey, **K5AVJ** mentioned the need to periodically announce the ongoing net, since the net was on an open repeater and others could have entered the area during the net. Steve Ayers, **KE5ES** commented that we need to be gentle with reminders of net procedure, since we could have new operators who are unfamiliar. Steve Roberts, **KG5QH** reminded all that others do listen to our nets; Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** added that all of the local TV stations have scanners and also monitor our repeater.

Peg Richard, **KA4UPA** mentioned that she was not on the net but always monitors the repeater, and explained that net control can get very busy. Please give net control about 3 minutes before assuming that a call to net control has been lost. Lynn Bailey, **K5AVJ** added that calling in every cyclist during the bike race is not usually necessary. Dale Durham, **W5WI** noted that the numbers given by the city parks staff at the start of the race quickly become inaccurate after the race starts. Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** explained that the city parks staff has limited institutional memory.

New Business

Publicity

Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** raised the issue of how little known our club is in the wider community and asked how else we can help support our community.

Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** mentioned some past cooperation with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and efforts to speak to Kiwanis and others. We previously par-

ticipated in the Fair and helped with the rodeo, but they have other people handling that now.

Elmer Delgado, **W5SLG** asked how many museums there are in Abilene and explained that his previous club in New Mexico often set up at a local museum.

Lynn Bailey, **K5AVJ** suggested asking the library staff if we could arrange an exhibit in their display cases.

Peg Richard, **KA4UPA** suggested contacting Frontier Texas; they allow various clubs to perform demonstrations at various times during the year.

Christopher Smith, **K2WCS** suggested adding more content to the club Web site. Dale Durham, **W5WI** explained that announcements are also on an ARRL section page.

Section Manager's Address

Dale Durham, **W5WI** began his speech with remarks that the actual definition of "club" — a group of like-minded individuals — has been forgotten in many clubs. Other amateur radio clubs have side hobbies or amateur-radio-related interests such as model rocketry or moon bounce communications. He has heard complaints from others that the Key City Amateur Radio Club does not seem to do anything. The point was made that complaints about leadership do not help: if you want the club to do more activities, start those activities!

This is another problem in the Key City Amateur Radio Club: often the club depends on a few individuals, for example, Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** is "Mr. Field Day" for our club. This is not a good plan for the long term.

Lastly, Dale Durham, **W5WI** mentioned that anyone who would like to join the section Zoom meetings should send him an email at: w5wi@arrl.net

Field Day

Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** gave a reminder that Field Day is coming up in June. We need volunteers for:

- Planning and Location Committee
- Food Committee
- Antenna Setup and Teardown

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these should contact Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ**.

John Doerschuk, **KE5OVB** suggested that choosing a location is probably our most pressing issue at the moment.

Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** volunteered to serve as Public Information Officer for the event.

Repeater Issues

Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** reported that our repeater failed due to a power outage during the recent freeze. Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** also reported that the controller may be nearing the end of its service life.

Future Presentations

Allen Brooks, **KF5SPQ** called for volunteers to do presentations at future meetings.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peg Richard, **KA4UPA** and seconded by Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X**.

With no objection, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 1955.