

Key City Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved at the May 2023 meeting

KCARC Secretary Jacob Bachmeyer, **KE5WHG**

April 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by David Andrews, **WB5VIH**.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Andrews, **WB5VIH**. The invocation was given by Lynn Bailey, **K5AVJ**.

Members introduced themselves. There were 34 members and 2 guests present at the meeting.

Members:

WB5VIH	KE5WHG	N5JZH	K15OUS
WB5DUQ	KC5ETW	KE5DOO	W5SLG
K5AVJ	KI5THL	KG5STQ	AD5KH
KI5YTG	N5QNL	W5WNI	KE5LGG
WX5TX	N5TEQ	K2WCS	W5CHS
KF5ZQB	WT5X	KI5GOZ	KG7VB
KG8DSK	KF5YYP	WB5YFW	KC5JJQ
WS5EAB	WD6FIL	KB5NLP	KE5OVB
KF5BAB	KJ5DX		

Radio Amateur guest:

N5OGD

1 other guest was present

A motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting as published was made by Elmer Delgado, **W5SLG** and seconded by Lynn Bailey, **K5AVJ**.

The motion was carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Tammy Harden, **KB5NLP** and filed for audit.

Old Business

SkyWARN

Kendall Thomas, **W5WNI** reported that the link to NWS San Angelo has been moved from the 444.250 repeater to the 443.100 repeater. There are a few nets that normally meet on the 443.100 repeater that will need to be postponed or cancelled when SkyWARN is activated. David Andrews, **WB5VIH** noted that the local ARES/RACES net is one of these nets that will be preempted for SkyWARN and reported a recent SkyWARN drill.

Morse Code Class

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** reported that the Morse code class completed just prior to the meeting, with 5 students staying through the course.

General-class License Study Course

Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** reported that the class had also wrapped up, with several students passing the exam the previous Saturday.

Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** also mentioned that he had been asked by several people to organize an Extra-class study group.

Antenna Class

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** announced tentative plans for an antenna-building class to be held at his place of business at 6633 US Highway 277. The class is planned in two sessions: theory of dipole antennas at the first session and a second "hands-on" session. Further details to be announced at the next meeting.

Club Shirts

Lois Doerschuk, **KF5BAB** reported that progress has just begun but has been slow. She has obtained a quote for \$720 for 40 shirts. Only the main part of the logo could be embroidered; the “Key City Amateur Radio Club” text is too small for that process. Another vendor quoted \$13.49 each for plain shirts and \$21.66 each for polo shirts. David Andrews, **WB5VIH** suggested making a few prototypes.

When no motion was forthcoming, David Andrews, **WB5VIH** absented himself from the President’s chair, thus leaving KCARC Vice President Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** temporarily presiding, and, as a member, moved to buy sample pocket polo shirts, one with embroidering and one with printed transfer from each of the two vendors currently considered. Elmer Delgado, **W5SLG** seconded the motion. Christopher Smith, **K2WCS** moved to amend the motion to set a price limit for the sample shirts of no more than \$40 each; David Andrews, **WB5VIH** agreed to amend his motion.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

John Doerschuk, **KE5OVB** reported that he expects to have the samples by the next meeting.

New Business

Field Day

Druann Thomas, **N5QNL** announced plans to offer a sign-up sheet for bringing side dishes for the Field Day potluck dinner at the next meeting.

KCARC Facebook Group

John Smith, **KG7VB** noted that he still receives some notifications for the KCARC Facebook group. Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** promised to fix the issue.

Baird Railhead Festival

Tammy Harden, **KB5NLP** mentioned that the Baird railhead festival will be on May 20th. Further details should be available at the May meeting.

Presentation

Elmer Delgado, **W5SLG** gave a presentation about modern digital voice modes. He introduced six digital voice systems used in amateur radio with a few notes.

- **D-STAR**: “Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio” developed by the Japan Amateur Radio League in the late 1990’s.
- **DMR**: “Digital Mobile Radio” uses TDMA to split each RF channel into two timeslots.
- **WIRES-X**: “Wide coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System” is a Yaesu-specific digital system for bridging repeaters.
- **System Fusion**: Yaesu’s implementation of C4FM “Digital Amateur Radio”.
- **P25**: commercial Project 25 equipment can be repurposed for amateur use, but is expensive!
- **NXDN**: an actual narrow digital mode, similar to DMR but without using TDMA.

Programming digital radios is slightly different, since all voice paths are tied to talk groups. A very brief overview was given noting the analogy between DMR color codes, P25 Network Access Codes, and NXDN Random Access Numbers.

Most amateur use of these modes uses a common DMR ID and NXDN ID system organized using a Web site at radioid.net. Obtaining a DMR ID from that site requires uploading a copy of your amateur radio license and typically has a 24 hour turnaround time. Do not lose your login for that site; account recovery is a major pain.

There are many hotspot designs over a wide range of prices. One option is a hotspot software package available at pistar.uk that can be used with an RF interface module and a Raspberry Pi.

The presentation next month will be on the topic of WIRES-X.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lynn Bailey, **K5AVJ** and seconded by Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X**.

With no objection, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 1952.