

Key City Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved at the June 2023 meeting

KCARC Secretary Jacob Bachmeyer, **KE5WHG**

May 8, 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 Elmer Delgado, **W5SLG**.

Members introduced themselves. There were 24 members and 5 guests present at the meeting.

Members:

WB5VIH	KE5WHG	KB5NLP	N5JZH
KG5STQ	KI5THL	KI5OUS	W5SLG
KF5BAB	KE5OVB	WB5PGX	WA4GCS
KE5OWL	KI5DHX	KJ5DX	N5QNL
W5WNI	KE5LGG	KC5JJQ	WB5YFW
KG8DSK	WT5X	KJ6HXQ	WD6FIL

Radio Amateur guests:

N0SWT **N5OGD** **KD5HTS**

2 other guests were present

A motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting as published was made by John Doerschuk, **KE5OVB** and seconded by Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X**.

The motion was carried.

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

Old Business

Baird Railhead Festival

Tammy Harden, **KB5NLP** reported that the final planning meeting will be held the night after the club meeting at the Baird City Hall. The organizers are hoping for KCARC volunteers to help manage traffic for the car show on Saturday, May 20th. Volunteers should arrive for the event between 0830 and 0900 on the 20th.

Antenna Class

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** brought a signup sheet for the planned antenna-building class. A first session is planned at the library, with a planned later hands-on bring-your-own-materials session.

Club Shirts

John Doerschuk, **KE5OVB** brought two sample shirts, one each with iron-on and embroidered club logos. Both samples had names embroidered. The vendor is waiving set-up fees. Costs were explained. Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** suggested ordering shirts as a group at the next meeting, but the vendor will have the shirts available through their Web site.

Field Day

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** noted that Field Day is the last weekend in June, which will be after the club meeting next month. Druann Thomas, **N5QNL** passed around a sign-up sheet to bring side dishes for the traditional KCARC Field Day potluck and reported that we have secured permission to use the Hamby VFD station this year.

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** explained that, while the contest is about making as many contacts as possible, Field Day is also a simulated emergency drill. As a drill, Field Day demonstrates an ability to set up and operate at a site not normally equipped for radio. Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** reported that we contacted almost every state last year, using only temporary antennas.

Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** told his story of receiving a distress call after a hurricane had hit Jamaica. He contacted TX DPS, who in turn handed them off to the UN relief efforts, who then explained that the US Navy was en route. The radio operator in Jamaica

had been using a radio with a scavenged car battery and a random piece of wire found after the hurricane had blown through.

Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** and David Andrews, **WB5VIH** recounted other incidents after tornadoes. Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** reminisced on some of the relief efforts after a tornado had hit Sweetwater, starting a discussion that led to noting several past incidents where KCARC members and other local hams had helped in searches for missing persons.

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** gave a brief pitch urging people to join ARES and RACES.

Druann Thomas, **N5QNL** gave a reminder of the Field Day schedule. Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** called for volunteers to help manage setup and teardown at Field Day. Steve Cannell, **WD6FIL** noted that the Field Day contest rules have changed again this year.

New Business

Ham of the Month

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** read a biography and the members quickly and correctly guessed that it was for Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X**.

Science Educator Symposium

Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** reported that Cisco College is asking us to present at a symposium for science teachers ranging from kindergarten to high school levels. Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** is asking for any members with teaching experience to help prepare 30 minute presentations for the event.

VE Test Session Report

Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** reported that three people sat for examinations at the previous VE test session, one new operator, one upgrade from technician to General, and one returning operator whose license had expired long enough ago to require retaking the exams. All passed.

Presentation

Elmer Delgado, **W5SLG** gave a presentation.

First, he mentioned that there is some controversy, but C4FM is definitely not legal in HF bands. FCC rules limit amateur HF transmissions to 300 baud, with a few sub-bands where 1200 baud is permitted. C4FM uses 4800 baud, and is therefore illegally wide for use on HF.

The presentation was mostly based on an article "Mic Fright" written by James Peisker, **AF5NP**. This term describes the well-known fear of public speaking.

Anxiety over following the rules for voice contacts is easily overblown: in the US, the rules are fairly simple, the only hard requirement is to state your callsign at least once every 10 minutes. Most hams will be patient, remembering their own time starting out, and there are no hard requirements for amateur voice procedure.

The best way to learn is to simply listen before you speak and absorb the patterns others use. Arranging contacts with people you know can also be helpful. Clubs and EmComm groups often organize regular nets, which can also be good places to start, since only a few words are needed to check in and out.

There are also non-voice modes, such as PSK31, FT8, RTTY, SSTV, and CW.

A tool called NetLogger was mentioned, which is both a logging tool and an Internet-based message system organized around amateur radio nets.

There is an OMISS net on HF that is also a good place to practice, since the regulars on that net are particularly helpful to new hams.

Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** commented that Field Day is also a good place for getting started on the air.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Druann Thomas, **N5QNL** and seconded by Tammy Harden, **KB5NLP**.

With no objection, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 1950.