

Key City Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved at the January 2024 meeting

KCARC Secretary Jacob Bachmeyer, **KE5WHG**

November 13, 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 Randy Robinson, **N5JZH**.

Members introduced themselves. There were 24 members and 3 guests present at the meeting.

Members:

WB5VIH	KE5WHG	KB5NLP	N5JZH
WT5X	WZ5AB	N5TEQ	WB5DUQ
W5JAP	WL7KS	AL7PB	KF5ZQB
WS5EAB	KF5YYP	KC5JJQ	WB5YFW
W5WNI	KJ5DX	KJ5CJL	KG7VB
KG8DSK	K2WCS	W5CHS	WD6FIL

Radio Amateur guests:

KJ5ARI **N5BBU**

1 other guest or associate member was present

A motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting as published was made by Scott Keating, **KG8DSK** and seconded by John Smith, **KG7VB**.

The motion was carried.

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

Old Business

Technician-class License Study Course

Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** reported that the course is proceeding well, although a few have dropped out and there are plans for a few special catch-up sessions.

Repeater Issues

Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** reported continuing work on the new cabinets.

Christmas Party

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** announced that the Christmas Party has been rescheduled to the second Monday of the month in lieu of the regular meeting at 18:00 on December 11th at the Hamby VFD station. Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** added that the regular ornament exchange is planned and asked about details of the potluck dinner. The meat is expected to be provided and members should bring sides and desserts.

New Business

Ham of the Month

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** described a member of the club and Mike Roche, **KF5ZQB** correctly guessed that the Ham of the Month is John Smith, **KG7VB**.

VE Exam Sessions

Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** reported that the next VE test session will be on December 2nd. Steve Cannell, **WD6FIL** noted some confusion that the club Web site still lists past sessions.

SkyWARN

Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** announced that the SkyWARN training session will be held on February 24th at 9:00 in the morning in the usual Hart auditorium at ACU. There is a planned breakfast gathering at Whataburger on the nearby Highway 80 at 7:30.

ARRL Changes

Christopher Smith, **K2WCS** reported that ARRL membership will no longer include printed issues of

the magazines. David Andrews, **WB5VIH** expressed his discontent with that change and the dues increase.

Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** reported a conversation with ARRL staff about the issue, noted that total ARRL membership had declined from about 350,000 to about 160,000 over the past two years, and noted concerns that this decline could reduce the clout of the ARRL lobbyists. He encouraged ARRL members to stay in and work to oust the officials responsible for the recent problems at ARRL.

ARES/RACES Exercise

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** reported a recent surprise RACES exercise in which our local group successfully participated.

2024 KCARC Club Activity Ideas

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** called for ideas for club activities in 2024.

Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** suggested participating in Parks-on-the-Air. Scott Keating, **KG8DSK** asked what parks count and Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** explained that there is a list on a website. Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** reported a recent incident related to similar activities.

Christopher Smith, **K2WCS** suggested build parties with simple kits.

Chris Goodnough, **WZ5AB** suggested a fox hunt.

Tammy Harden, **KB5NLP** suggested events for the ladies in the club, not necessarily directly radio-related.

KCARC Information Net

Ron Ashmore, **WB5DUQ** called for more volunteers for net control. The net is held each Thursday night at 20:00.

General-class License Study Course

Randy Robinson, **N5JZH** reported tentative plans for a General-class license study course planned to start on February 3rd and run on each Saturday in February and March to the test session on April 6th. The

class is planned at the usual location at Cisco College from 13:00 to 17:00.

ARRL WTX Section Website

Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** gave a brief overview of the West Texas ARRL section website at arrl-wtx.org.

Presentation

Edwin Bumpass, **WS5EAB** presented a portable battery box built inside a watertight carrying case and designed for charging using solar panels.

The box contains two 20Ah LiFePO4 batteries and features several outputs: 12V cigarette lighter sockets, USB ports, Anderson power pole connectors, a pair of binding posts, and a 1500W 120VAC inverter. Solar panels connect using an XT60 connector.

Most of the components were ordered from Amazon at a cost of \$551.16, including the 100W solar panels that cost \$79.

Future plans include a similar system complete with a radio, all in a Pelican case.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Harden, Jr, **WT5X** and seconded by Scott Keating, **KG8DSK**.

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