

Key City Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Proposed minutes to be approved at the April 2024 meeting

KCARC Secretary Jacob Bachmeyer, **KE5WHG**

March 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 19:01 by David Andrews, **WB5VIH**.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Andrews, **WB5VIH**. The invocation was given by John Doerschuk, **KE5OVB**.

Members introduced themselves. There were 31 full members and 4 others present at the meeting.

Members:

WB5VIH	KE5WHG	KB5NLP	KC5ETW
KD5HTS	W5SLG	KJ5DMP	K5FLD
KF5ZQB	WB5DUQ	N5TEQ	N5QNL
W5WNI	KJ5DX	KI5DHX	KJ5CJL
KF5BAB	KE5OVB	AL7PB	WB5YFW
KD6YLQ	KD5IL	KG8DSK	KI5UPY
KI5UPX	W5CHS	K2WCS	KG7VB
N7UXJ	KC5JJQ	KI5OUS	

4 other guests and associate members were present

A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting as published was made by John Doerschuk, **KE5OVB** 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

Repeater Issues

Brent Morris, **N5TEQ** reported ongoing repair efforts for the '25 repeater. Dustin Tatro, **KD5HTS** asked about the condition of the structure containing the '76 repeater.

SkyWARN

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** reported that the annual SkyWARN training had been held recently.

Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** presented the standard procedures for the local SkyWARN group. Kendall Thomas, **W5WNI** explained that the 146.760 repeater is used for the SkyWARN net, with 443.100 as the link to the San Angelo NWS office. Druann Thomas, **N5QNL** further explained the net control station will usually use the **K5ABI** callsign, but informal nets use the net control operator's personal callsign. Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** explained that the backup plan in case of failure of the 146.760 repeater is to use simplex on the repeater output frequency of 146.760.

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** noted that San Angelo is 90 miles away and often has different weather.

Kendall Thomas, **W5WNI** encouraged new spotters to ride with more experienced people first and gave a reminder that reports of "marble-sized hail" are useless. Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** similarly noted the need to disambiguate between quarter-coin-sized hail and quarter-inch hail.

General-class License Study Course

Louis Janis, **WB5YFW** reported that the course is complete and two students have passed the exam, while two more are planning to take the exam at the next test session.

KCARC Activity Ideas

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** reported plans for a foxhunt. Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** and Kendall Thomas, **W5WNI** announced a foxhunt—a small fox had been hidden in the area.

Field Day

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** was briefly confused when calling for a volunteer to be Field Day director, but was reminded that Randy Robinson, **N5JZH**, who was not able to attend this meeting, had volunteered for that role at the previous meeting on condition that others assist.

Extra-class Study Group

Mel Saunders, **AL7PB** announced plans for study group sessions to be held one hour before the club meetings, beginning with the April meeting. Louis Janis, **WB5YFW** called for volunteers to help with the study group.

Technician-class License Study Course

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** announced plans for a Technician-class study course to begin soon, but did not have details.

Cisco College “Wrangler Day”

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** gave a reminder about the plans for a demonstration setup for the event on April 17th.

Tailgate Sale

Ron Ashmore, **WB5DUQ** reported that the tailgate sale is scheduled for May 11th, 2024 at the Abilene VFW post’s pavilion.

New Business

Tour de Gap Bicycle Race

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** reported that our help with the Tour de Gap bicycle race has again been requested. The Tour de Gap event will be held on July 27th this year. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was prepared and circulated.

NDOW Exercise at Lake Brownwood

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** reported a wide-ranging emergency exercise simulating a flood in the Lake Brownwood area. The participating local RACES group was deployed to a location that would have been underwater in actual floods to provide assistance to the General Land Office in the exercise. A light cart had been adapted as a portable antenna tower. They were able to set up in only 30 minutes.

Pirate Station on the 146.760 Repeater

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** reported that some joker is asking for radio checks or for transmissions to be repeated, but refuses to identify himself.

VE Test Session Results

Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** reported the results of a recent test session: 2 upgrades and 4 new licensees, out of 6 sitting for the exam. He also gave a reminder that prospective first-time licensees must first obtain a FRN from the FCC before sitting for the exam.

Assistance Requests

Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** announced that Travis McClure, **KJ5AAF** is asking if anyone with an HF station would be willing to host him as a visiting operator, as his current home precludes setting up a proper antenna. Anyone interested should contact Bill Shaw, **KJ5DX** for his contact information.

David Andrews, **WB5VIH** mentioned Debra Turner, **WB5DXA** and that he had helped after she thought she had blown out her radio. He found that the radio itself seems to be fine, and reconfigured the radio to resolve adverse interactions between it and some of her other equipment. He mentioned plans to set up a new antenna using a push-up pole but did not know where to obtain one. Several members noted that Lowe’s carries push-up poles.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Druann Thomas, **N5QNL** and seconded by Scott Keating, **KG8DSK**.

With no objection, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 19:51.