



THE REPEATER

*Welcome to the monthly
Newsletter publication of the
Fannin County Amateur Radio Club*



K5FRC Repeaters

(100HZ tone on output of all repeaters)

145.470 (No tone) IRLP 3602 ECHOLINK 143902

145.130 (No tone)

443.750 (No tone) IRLP 7901 ECHOLINK 554534

Digital SSTV 446.460

(10 MINUTE BEACON)

David Keene W5DBK, editor-in-training

s to W5DBK.dave@gmail.com

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Email
|
comment

Treasures report

F.C.A.R. TREASURE'S REPORT FOR FEB. 2011

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE : 1/15/2011	\$1,958.22
INCOME : 2011 DUES & SILENT AUCTION (Steve T.)	\$125.00
EXPENSES : Mike Durban – coax for North Tower	\$200.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 2/19/2011	\$1,883.22
<i>(INCLUDING MONEYS FOR BIKE RALLY CD'S - \$139.12)</i>	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 2/19/2011	\$1,204.13
<i>(ACCOUNT WAS DORMANT - \$25.00 DUES WAS DEPOSITED)</i>	
TOTAL COMBINED FUNDS	\$3,087.35

Jo Lynn (Jody) Lindsey

For

Carly Tassan

F.C.A.R. Club Treasurer

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club
K5FRC
January 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by club president Mike Durbin K5MJD.

Mike began the meeting by introducing and welcoming again Bob Irish K5ZOL. After the meeting Bob will be presenting a slide show of his recent DXpedition to Botswana, Africa.

Mike shared that the minutes were on-line but the treasurer's report had not been posted. In the absence of Carly Tassan KE5ZKV, our new treasurer, Jody Lindsey KE5GIB gave an oral summary of the report. She also informed us that she had collected more dues today and would have to deposit some of it into the savings account because the bank requires activity or they mark the account as dormant. The motion to approve the treasurer's report as given was made by David Reeder WA0URJ and seconded by Mike Lindsey KD5UNY. The report was approved.

Since the minutes are on-line, David Reeder WA0URJ made the motion they be approved as posted. Mike Lindsey KD5UNY seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There was talk about the great Christmas Party we had in December. There were a total of fifty-eight in attendance. And Shumardi's was a great place to have it. As David Reeder said, "We marketed the heck out of it." All agreed that had made a difference.

Mike said the he had numerous requests to put up a "For Sale" section on the club's web page for people to advertise Ham gear and stuff like that. He said he would be doing that in the next week or two. So if anyone has anything to sale, get the information to him and he would get it on. Some members have already said they have items they would like to sale, so be watching. Also, if prices are not brought up that is something that can be added to the Net on Tuesday nights. The list can be read and information to contact the seller independently is ok as long as prices are not discussed on the air.

Mike also told us that he and David Keene W5DBK had been up in the radio room at the VA at their request to help clean up that room. They have now moved a lot of the unnecessary equipment to Mike's garage and the M win transmitter will be going back to the Motorola group that donated it to us. They do want it back.

The weather bureau has added the 13 machine as back up. Continue to monitor the 47 but if it goes down or is someone is on it they will switch to the 13. We need to try to monitor both repeaters as much as we can now. Mike says he monitors all three. Mike offered to take anyone interest upstairs to see the room and the changes. The VA has built walls around the elevator and now you can actually talk because it is so much quieter.

Darrell Brewer KE5JHN was asked to give an update on the RACES. Darrell explained that the area coordinator has changed which has caused some issues. The regional coordinator has taken it over is trying to get it in order. Many of the applications that were sent have been lost so Darrell said he has a list of those that need to fill out another. Darrell said he has kept copies of those certifications that have not yet expired and he would send these new applications along with copies of the copies. They didn't even have a record of our county coordinator which has been Roger Ashcraft KE5CCJ. The new county judge is going to sign a memo Tuesday to re-designate Roger and Darrell said he is going to send a copy of the old memo also that Derrell Hall signed when he was county judge. Darrell said that hopefully this will finally get this straightened out.

Darrell also requested permission to make an announcement about Sky Warn. The annual Sky Warn class is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1st, from 7 to 9 PM, at the courthouse South Annex. He passed out handouts with the information from Mark Fox to take home. Darrell said Mark Fox has some new material and new format he would be presenting. He encouraged everyone to bring family, friends and neighbors. This class is open to everyone. Those that have never been to one of these classes are highly encouraged to attend.

Roger Ashcraft asked Darrell if there is going to be a CERT class this spring. Darrell said a date has not been set but that is in the plans. Roger hopes to do another Technician class but that would be set according to when the CERT class takes place. Darrell and Roger will get together to coordinate the dates.

As Mike gave an update on the repeaters he explained that the 2meter, 6 meter and 450 is tied to the remote base now. We can do pretty much anything we want except get into RAILS. Part of that is because the antenna is mounted too close to the tower to be efficient. You can hear them but can't get back. David Keene has a bracket built and when the weather cooperates someone will have to go back up 150 feet.

Mike explained the remote base and told us that that only works from the 450 right now. And our 13 machine is a standalone repeater. It is our backup. It does not have IRLP or Echo Link on it. But he also said that if everyone agrees since the 13 and the 450 machines are very underutilized, he would like to link these two together which means no matter which you come in on you will go out on both. That would then allow IRLP and Echo Link that is on the 450 to be tied to both of them just like it was the same machine. Then the remote base would also be on that pair. This would

make the operation easier for those who don't want to learn all the codes. Basically the 2 meter and 450 repeaters would be the same. They would come up at the same time and ID at the same time. There would be a command to disable one or the other, but leave them in parallel all the time. There was quite a bit of discussion but Mike said that this would not happen for a while but he wanted us to think about the possibility.

Next Mike asked for suggestions for topics for the meetings for the year. It has been suggested that we have a technical session at each meeting and we need to decide what topics are wanted. Mike said obviously one topic is repeaters and codes and remote bases and how they work which he would do for the February meeting. We will talk about all the capabilities we have verses what we are using. Obviously December and January is covered and June is Field Day. Darrell Brewer suggested Mike repeat the program he had done in the past on magnetic shift, true north and magnetic north. David Keene suggested one or more programs on how to do DX. Gary Stone N5PHT volunteered to do that in April. Roy Riales KE5WDG suggested antennas and antenna grounding. Mike said he would like to see that covered as two topics because grounding is a world of its own. He asked Glenn Estes N5UPA would do a grounding class because grounding is his field of knowledge. Glenn agreed to do this for March. Mike said he would like to do the antenna class when it is warm but not too hot and someplace where there are antennas like Ivanhoe. May was chosen and we will have our meeting out there and he will cover VHF, UHF and 6 meter antennas. David Keene suggested wire antennas which will be another class. Mike said another topic that he had been asked about was radio operations. Basically, what do all those buttons mean? Modulation techniques is another topic that has been asked about. Mike said we would leave the other months open for now and fill later as we decide what we want. Think about it, we are good through June.

Mike Lindsey KD5UNY said he would like to see us have a real Field Day this year. Mike Durbin asked who had been on a real field day which is an all week-end thing. Only a few had and most everyone agreed that they wanted to make this one a "real" Field Day. Mike Lindsey was made the Field Day manager to coordinate the food, get the location etc. Darrell Brewer, David Keene, Kathy Brewer, Jody Lindsey and others volunteered to help.

Mike said he would put this list up on the web and Fanninhams so we know which topic would be covered each month to help create interest in the meeting. These classes will be after the meetings which will make the meetings longer. It was OK with the group there.

Mike asked if there was anything else, old business or new business. Jody Lindsey KE5GIB recommended that David Keene be made a Life Member for all the work he does for our club. Jody said, "David is always helping us. For the last three years I have hollered at him I don't know how many times. He has been my advisor. He has helped everybody." Darrell Brewer agreed and made the motion. David Reeder and others jumped in to second the motion. There was no need for discussion. The motion passed unanimously. David expressed his surprise and thanked everyone.

The motion to adjourn was made by David Reeder and seconded by Patsy Avery KD5YND. The motion passed.

X

Kathy Brewer KE5SLG
Secretary

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Antenna mast alignment fixture

OK, you just finished your copper pipe j-pole antenna and now you need to mount it to your mast. However, it is difficult to rigidly connect 2 round pipes without some type of “aid”. If you just use a couple of hose clamps, the result is usually something like in photo #1. Not good. However, if you add an “antenna mast alignment fixture”, the antenna and mast stay in alignment as shown in photo #2 , #3 and #4.



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4

This “fixture” is fabricated from small angle iron welded to form an “X” shape. See photos #5 and #6.

Where can you buy one of these? I don't know. I made this one but you can tell from the pictures that I am no welder! Perhaps some club member can assemble some of these. This one was made from steel angle but a longer lasting one could be made from aluminum or stainless steel if the right equipment was available.



Photo #5



Photo #6

Dave

W5DBK

Club meetings

The monthly meetings of the Fannin County Amateur Radio Club are held in the 5th floor conference room of Building 1 (the main building with the flag pole) of the Sam Rayburn VA Hospital in Bonham on the 3rd Saturday of the month. All amateurs and interested persons are invited.

Poker Run

Help is needed for club members to provide communication services for the 2011 Poker run in Fannin County on March 26. Contact Danny Loyd at [Danny Loyd\(danleeloyd1@aol.com\)](mailto:danleeloyd1@aol.com) for details.
