



## 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)

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**March 2011** Volume 2 No. 3

# Fannin County Amateur Radio Club

## K5FRC

### Minutes for February 19, 2011

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As is the custom, the meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by the club president, Mike Durbin K5MJD.

Mike welcomed David Robison to the meeting today. David has been communicating by way of Fanninham and is here to test for his Technician license today. He has been studying on line. Mike asked everyone to introduce themselves with their name and call. Good luck David.

Jody Lindsey gave a summary of the treasurer's report before handing over the "treasury stuff" to our new treasurer, Carly Tassan KE5ZKV. Mike Lindsey KD5UNY made the motion to approve the report and Mary Hackney KE5WDJ seconded it. The report was approved as given.

The minutes were post only last night on the web site so an opportunity was given for anyone to read them that that wanted to and had not had a chance to do so. Mike Lindsey made the motion to approve the minutes. Bob Tassan KE5ZKU seconded. The motion passed.

Mike explained that due to some equipment changes our insurance premiums may go up or down a little. He will be adding some equipment to the coverage as well as taking some off. The payment is due March 5, so he and David Keene will be going over the list and making any changes necessary. Meanwhile, since the payment is due before the next meeting George Phillips KE5ERU made the motion that the treasurer go ahead and make the payment and Mike Durbin will report back to the club at the next meeting. Carly Tassan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Repeater Update: While the 13 repeater is being repaired in his garage, Mike has cross linked the 450 remote base upside down to look like the 13 repeater, minus the courtesy tones and IDs. It is now coming out on 450. It is there but if you kerchunk the repeater you won't hear anything. So the 13 is sort of up. And he will be getting the 13 machine repaired when he can.

The problem with the 13 is one of the cavities has opened up for some unknown reason and one has not been modified yet. It worked great in the beginning. He explained how the cavities worked that he had to make some new coils which may be a little longer than expected. He said he would explain more during his presentation at the end since he was teaching on repeaters. The radios work fine.

David Keene said he had the bracket made to move the antenna out away from the tower.

We need to designate a nice Saturday to do some work on our towers. The VA has installed anchor bolts about a year ago. We need to move the guy wires over and re-tension this tower. Noise on the 47 is caused by the guy lines blowing in the wind. That is why it comes and goes. It is not always windy. The only way to fix that is to put our guy lines in properly. They are also not grounded any more. The tower is grounded but not the guy lines. That is one project.

There is another project at the HF station. Our three element beam is now a two element beam. One of the elements has come loose and is lying on the roof. It is not damaged. Another thing is we need to restring a sloper that is hanging from the tower. George Phillips volunteered to help do any work than may need to be done inside the station. Mike agreed that there is some of that also. Basically we need to do some general housekeeping and all the cables need to be looked at. What do we need? All the feed lines are always disconnected when we leave that station. There is a great rig there for any that want to use it.

Mary Hackney suggested we pick a week end. Mike said since it would be weather related we need also an alternate. He said he would think about and publish a time and date on Fanninhams.

Jody Lindsey KE5GIB said we need to document our work with pictures. All agreed. Mike said we need a club historian. He told about some of the albums in the HF room of some of the clubs past activities. He has pictures of the club when these antennas were being built. Mike said he would put the pictures on the web page if she would send them to him. Pictures can also be posted on Fanninhams.

Darrell Brewer KE5JHN announced the Sky Warn class has been rescheduled for 7:00 PM, Monday, March 7, at the Courthouse South Annex in the court room.

Darrell also reported that the consultant working with us on our 501-C-3 status had sent us some information and that we had to make some adjustments in the wording of the corporation document and that we have sent \$25 to the Secretary of State in Austin to get the change on record. When that gets back he will create whatever it is we need to send to the IRS. Everything is progressing well. Mike added that then when someone makes donations of equipment or such to the club, it can be written off as a tax deduction.

Also Darrell told us all the RACES applications and information that he had been gathering from the club members has now been sent in. If you are new to RACES you should be getting your new package and the renewals will be getting the renewal information in the mail.

Mike reminded that in our last meeting we talked about having classes to be at the end of each meeting. He went over the list of topics for the next few months and asked for more ideas for topics and then he would find the best person do the training on those topics. Today's meeting Mike said he would be teaching "Repeaters: What they do and how they work". We have grounding which is a big issue for all our Hams. Glenn Estes is going to do that one next month. In April Gary Stone N5PHT is going to talk to us about, "How do you run DX? How do you really talk to these guys all the time?" Gary is one of the biggest DX'ers not just here, he is known around the country. In May Mike will also be doing "VHF/UHF antennas" since that seems to be the major use of antennas around here.

June is Field Day which kind of covers everything at one time, but now you have to go make it work. Last month Mike Lindsey was made the Field Day Coordinator and David Keene noted that we all volunteered to help him. First we need to know "What do we want to do and where?" Mike Lindsey said. He said he had talked to Darrell Brewer about seeing if the County would let us use the old jail south of town. Both water and electricity is on there. We would have toilet facilities and the air conditioning, which is always left on. There are no trees to interfere with the antennas. It seems to be a perfect location, if we can get it. We can set up inside or outside the building.

Mike asked if we were going to do a "real" field day which means thirty-six hours nonstop. Are going to contest? What about the food? Do we want to brown bag or covered dish? Mike Durbin said personally he would like to see a real field day; it can be a lot of fun. Mary Hackney said she would like a teaching on installing a mobile radio in her car. David Keene also said he could do one on soldering, hands on. This would be a great time have some training classes. There was lots of discussion for the possibilities for Field Day. It was suggested we do a poll on Fanninhams to see what the club wants to do.

More topics for classes were suggested. Darrell Brewer asked again about magnetic shift, which led to a discussion and Jody Lindsey brought up the fault lines in Oklahoma so Mike Durbin said the teaching he had done in the past came from what he does when he is working with Dr. Ballard on the ships. He agreed that he could do a Geological class of what he does in July. David Keene asked if there was any interest in digital modes. He agreed to do "Digital Modes: PSK, Easy Pal, etc." in August. Roy Riales suggested one on MARS, RACES, ARES, etc. which was set for the October meeting. Darrell Brewer said he could do the RACES portion of that. Mike Durbin said he could do Mars but there are also others more

active in MARS. November was tentatively set as Mike doing a class on wire antennas. Mike said he would get this list up on the web page and on Fanninhams.

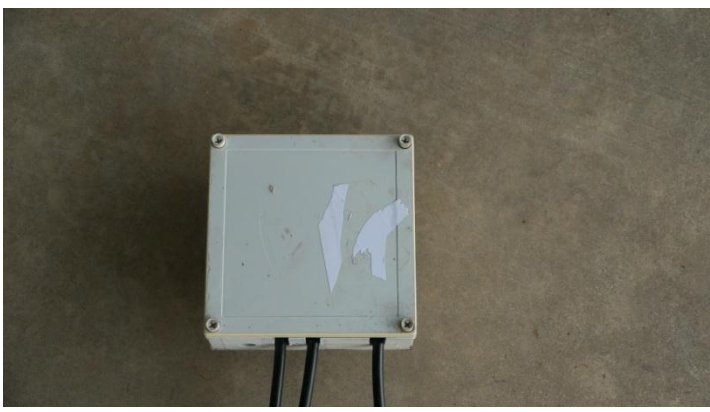
He also said he had added the "For Sale" section to the web page if you have anything to sale or trade. Just e-mail your ad to him and he would put it up on the web page. Feel free to put prices in there. Yes, we can have a for sale section on the Net but you cannot talk price. That is commerce and is illegal.

Mary Hackney asked if anyone knew where there was a tower someone might want taken down. She is looking for one.

Mary Hackney made the motion to adjourn. David Keene seconded. The motion passed

## What is in the box?

The 145.130 repeater is making progress on the North Fannin tower. The next phase will vertically separate the transmit and receive antennas which will reduce the work that the duplexer has to do. The receive antenna will remain at the top 350 ft. level and the transmit antenna will use a separate hard line and be mounted at the 150 ft. level. This will allow the transmitter to run a little higher power without creating a desense problem in the receiver. Since the 443.70 repeater transmit antenna is also at the 350 ft. elevation, the 444.50 RAILS beam can be mounted at the 150 ft. level without being bothered by the 443.750 transmitter. Because there is only 1 feed line for the 145.130 transmit antenna and the 444.50 Rails beam, a device called a "duplexer" is used. That is what is in the box! While the duplexer may be weather proof, the PL-259 connectors are not and would require a full "tape job" to keep them dry. The box is from a "retired" WIFI radio and is designed to survive the "elements".



The diplexer will be mounted at the 150 ft. elevation and the hardline containing the 145.130 transmitter output and the RAILS 445.50 transmitter and receiver will be connected to the "COM" connection of the diplexer. The RAILS beam will be connected to the 350-540 Mhz connection and the 145.130 transmitter will be connected to the 1.3-170 Mhz input. The longer cable is the 145.130 connection and will be used to connect to a new 8dbi omni antenna mounted approximately 50 ft. above the diplexer. This new setup will be installed on the North Fannin tower when the weather permits in the next few weeks.

Dave

W5DBK

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