

Fannin County Amateur Radio Club

K5FRC

Minutes for May 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mike Durbin K5MJD leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The visitors, Brad Mitchell K5AR and Chuck Wood, who is studying to take his test, were welcomed. The members present introduced themselves with their name and call sign. There were twenty-five members and two visitors present.

Mike asked if there was any discussion of the Minutes for April as were posted on line. There was none and Danny Loyd KE5WDI made the motion to approve the minutes as posted. Mary Hackney KE5WDJ seconded. Motion passed.

Carly Tassan KE5ZKV, Club Treasurer, first thanked Jody Lindsey KE5GIB for filling in for her. She gave an oral review of the treasurer's report. The refund check of \$30.98 from Marsh Insurance for our overpayment due to the new inventory list we had sent in has been deposited. This brings our account to \$1760.20 in checking and the savings account total of \$1204.43 has not changed. The motion to approve her report was made by David Keene W5DBK and seconded by David Reeder WA0URJ. The motion passed.

Tax Exempt Status: Mike called on Darrell Brewer KE5JHN to update everyone on the tax exempt status for the club. Darrell said that we now have things squared away with the comptroller's office and the state attorney general's office. The next thing we will do is send financial information for the last couple of years to prove that we are none profit to our guy that is doing the paper work for us along with a check for \$400 to be sent to the IRS along with our application. Darrell said his understanding is that it takes a while after this is all sent for everything to be processed. Progress is being made.

Field Day progress report: Mike Lindsey KD5UNY said if we use the club call sign we can use all the bands providing that someone with Extra Class license is there at all times. This year's Field Day will be at the old/new jail on County Road 4200. Field Day, the fourth Saturday, is usually the meeting for June but this year it was thought that we would have an informal meeting on the normal third Saturday of the month at 9:00AM, out there to practice setting up. Bring your "stuff" that you are going to have at Field day so we know what we have and don't have, the week before. You cannot leave it there but at least you will know where it is.

A discussion came up about logging for the contests. Danny Loyd KE5WDI said he uses a particular program and would see how much it would cost to get it for the club. Someone said it was about \$30 or \$35. A motion was made by Jody Lindsey KE5GIB and seconded by David Keene W5DBK for the club to purchase this software for Field Day. Danny Loyd volunteered obtain it for the club and get it onto at least one computer before Field Day. Danny asked if the club has a computer. Yes, it is old and hasn't been turned on in a couple of years ,but Gary Stone has cleaned it up and checked to see if it still worked and will get it to Danny. This software will be available for the members use. Gary told us about

a software program called "AC Log" by N3FJP. Gary Stone said \$6 would get the Field Day software and N3FJP has a lot more that can be gotten as a package for \$39. It has 30 or 40 logging programs designed for contesting including all the multipliers. It is simple and easy to use software. Mike Lindsey made the motion to get the complete set of this software. Danny Loyd seconded. Mike Durbin explained that since there is getting to be more activity in the club there is advantage to using the club call because they can use the Extra Class. Remember an Extra class must be present. The motion passed. Danny will take care of the purchase and making ready the computer for Field Day.

Mike Lindsey listed things we are going to need. Put your name on "EVERYTHING" you bring. Bar-B-Q was agreed upon as the catered meal for Saturday night. David Reeder is going to arrange the caterer. David is also our PIO officer and will be taking care of the advertising. Mike Lindsey suggested the club also pay for the paper supplies and sausage and biscuit breakfast to be gotten from Braums on Sunday morning. David Reeder made the motion that a \$500 cap be put on the total club expenditure for Field Day. Danny Loyd seconded it. There was much discussion about whether to still have the Saturday evening meal catered. Bill Purcell KF5GJY, offered a corporate funded donation from Honey Grove Financial Services of \$250 to ease the pressure of the catered meal and other expenses. Mike Durbin told him that we could not advertise for them. Bill said he understood and there were no strings attached. It was suggested that he wait until our non-profit status was approved to write the check. David Reeder called for the vote. The motion to cap expenditures at \$500, passed. Jody Lindsey and Carly Tassan will take care of getting the other supplies. Lunch and snacks are on your own.

Mike Lindsey said we need people to commit to specific things such as working the stations etc. A few cannot do it all. There was discussion about which bands we were going to be on, the radios needed and types of antennas. The Fannin County Mobil Command Unit will also be set up and possibly used for one of the HF stations or the GOTA. The question, of which radio will be on which antenna, will be solved the week before at the regular third Saturday meeting held at the location.

Darrell Brewer suggested that there be there be testing sometime during Field Day. David Reeder, the lead tester, agreed to do it and to be sure it is advertised ahead with specific time set.

A group will go out to the old/new jail after the meeting to look it over and discuss preliminary plans.

Repeater Updates: Touching on last month's incident Mike Durbin assured us that the 13, (145.130) frequency is ours, and always was ours. Texas VHF-FM Society had failed to publish it on line like they should have. It was their fault and they admitted to it. The guy that coordinated for us was a very nice guy. He offered to re-tune the other peoples repeater cavities for them. They said "no" they wanted to have them done by professionals so he sent them a \$100 out of his own pocket because he was the one that made the mistake. Mike Durbin also offered to tune their cavities for free but they wanted to have it done by "professionals".

When Dave McAnally WD5M, from the NWS, came and picked up their old Emwin transmitter. He came out to Mike's ranch and it was a fun day talking about all the mistakes and things they hear on the radio at the NWS. Dave has done all our IRLP and Echo Link programming which he keeps updated remotely.

The club voted a while back to make him an “honorary” member for all his assistance Dave said he may come up for Field Day, but that he does want to come up and spend some time.

At the request of the National Weather Service, Mike said he will be changing some things. Since the 450 repeater is not being monitored by enough of us, he is moving IRLP and Echo Link to the 13 machine and RAILS to the 450. The NWS tried to talk to us on 450 through the IRLP and Echo Link when the internet was down at the VA and no one heard him but Mike so he relayed for him.

Before the 13 can become the primary repeater a couple of things need to happen. It is totally on a backup power generator and it is at a node for the people that supply internet, which is good. We are hard cabled to it, not wireless like at the VA so it is a little more stable though not a hundred percent. Mike said Eric Wise N4VY, who will be home soon for a couple of weeks, has offered a set of cavities for the 2meter repeater so transmit and receive on the 13 machine can go on the very top antenna. That is the ideal situation. The old cavities we have now won't allow it. The new cavities will then have to be tuned.

Asked if in the future there was a reason that IRLP and Echo Link could not be on all three repeaters, Mike said not right now because the controller he using now limits that possibility. If the club bought a five to seven controller and we had one controller controlling all the repeaters IRLP at that node any repeaters could be linked together.

NET report: Danny Loyd KD5WDI said we had been having thirteen to seventeen on Tuesday nights and thanked the ones that have been doing NET Control. He also encouraged more to get the experience and practice of being the NET control just in case you have to serve in severe weather. Remember as NET Control, you are the one in control so don't be afraid to take charge.

Steve Ten Eyck KE5CXT gave a brief report of the progress he and Robin Warren KE5DQM have made in setting up the parameters for weather nets and storm spotters. Twenty grid maps of Fannin County are being printed courtesy of the City of Allen. There are several things that will be submitted to the club later for approval such as storm NET conditions, spotting locations, and written guidelines on how to run the net.

Mike Durbin said that it has become somewhat of a nationwide standard that when you are in a net condition it should somehow be indicated to people that happen to be listening. The Morse code for the letter “n” is dah-dit . If you hear that dah-dit added to a courtesy tone that means they are in a net condition. He is going to make our controllers have a net condition. In that net condition there will be no courtesy tone and the squelch tail will be about 200 milliseconds. So you will know you are in a NET mode when things don't sound the same. If you ker-chunk the repeater you may not hear anything because your radio isn't fast enough.

Weather NET report: At the request of the NWS a net was called on May 20, 2011. We had reports of lot of rain and a lot of lightning, lot of water over the roads. Flash flood warning was issued based on the reports given to the NWS. Calls coordinating with us at the NWS were W7YC and WD5M.

Coax update: After discussion concerning the coax the club voted in March and again in April to purchase, a motion was made by Mike Lindsey KD5UNY and seconded by Steve Ten Eyck KE5CXT to not make the purchase. The motion passed.

Fundraiser Ideas: David Keene W5DBK presented two ideas for fundraisers for the club. He said he would like to see the club have a source of income beyond just our dues. The first idea is a little “gismo” for tying two round poles together. And the other is a tri-pod for military issue fiberglass antenna poles. He proposed that the club manufacture these for resale at HamCom or maybe through MTC in Paris or other places. The ideas were favorably received and David Keene and David Reeder agreed to get price estimates and get back to the club next month with a cost estimate.

Bob Tassan KE5ZKU restated the invitation that had been posted on Fanninhams to the club for their annual get-together for the fireworks display that is put on each year by the fireworks manufacturer down the road from them. All are invited.

Motion to adjourn was made by David Reeder and seconded by Danny Loyd. Motion passed.

Today’s presentation on “Antennas” by Mike Durbin K5MJD began after a short break.

Kathy Brewer KE5SLG
Secretary