

**FCARC
APRIL MINUTES
18 APRIL 2015**

The meeting was called to order by President Mark, KF5KUW at 9:03 AM.

Bill, KF5GJY led us in the opening prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to accept the minutes for the March meeting was made by Robin, KE5DQM seconded by George, KE5ERV. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Bill, KF5GJY gave a brief Treasurer's report stating that we had \$1,162 in both accounts.

Mark, KF5KUW said that he will be sending an official letter of termination to the VA Hospital in Bonham notifying them that we have vacated the premises. Mark also gave a report on the Emergency Preparedness Fair stating the several people were interested in Ham Radio and wanted to know if the club would be conducting a Technician license class. Mike, K5MJD said that he would conduct a month long class for the Technician if we had enough interest. George (KE5ERV) also said he would be willing to help teach a Technician class.

Mike, K5MJD gave the Trustee Report. He informed the club that our founder and previous club President Robert Smith W5FRC is suffering from Alzheimer's, which he learned from Robert's son. He also mentioned that we have a service project we can do to help Jim Cason, WB5UAS, install and set up his window pass-through for his radio cabling.

Mike said the current UHF repeater is 100% fully functional and connected to Paris UHF repeater with a radio link. However, we are still not connected to NCTC since Sulphur Springs is still off the air. A discussion followed as to the how the National Weather Service (NWS) would connect to our repeaters, and Mike said that they would probably use Echo Link. He also mentioned that Paris would also benefit in times of inclement weather since the NWS would still be able to reach them through our repeater.

Mike notified the club that the 13 repeater was off the air, and had originally been taken to his shop so that he would be able to complete the updates that were still needed. While he had the repeater, he took it to Paris to help Leo, N5JEP, and the Red River Amateur Radio Club diagnose their repeater interference problems. By connecting our repeater up with their duplexer, which Mike retuned for them, he was able to show that there wasn't an inter-mod

issue, since our repeater worked great without any of the issues that had been affecting their repeater. He and Leo then put the RRARC's repeater back online, and Mike brought our club repeater back to his shop so he can finish the updates.

Mike updated the club on the future tower climb that Jim Hunt KI5DQ is planning to do soon. Jim will check out connections at top and check the hardline cabling before a second climb is done, where we will replace the current VHF and UHF antennas. We will replace the current commercial antennas, a 4 bay VHF with an 8 bay VHF, as well as replacing the 8 bay UHF with a 16 bay UHF, with reconditioned commercial antennas. These improvements should resolve the issues we have been having with these repeaters, as well as improving our coverage area.

Mike said that he would be taking inventory and posting for sale all of the K5FRC club items that were now just taking up space in his shop and not being used. So that we can help clean up this excess inventory as well as raise some funds, Mike will post on the K5FRC Web site for club members to make bids, before we seek out other channels to sell this stuff (Richard with Main Trading was also mentioned as one of the possible alternatives). During discussion on some of the known items, Mark KF5KUW recommended that the Kenwood TS-520S would be a great radio to use during club events, and with the support of members present it was decided that the club keep this radio for future use and not include it in the sale. Mike K5MJD made a motion that we sell the remaining club items to members and a second from Brian NØFOI. This motion to sell the excess club equipment was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Mike then asked if he could get some volunteers to help him with the inventory that afternoon, which he planned to start around 1:00 pm. Several members expressed an interest, and he asked for those interested to talk with him after the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mark, KF5KUW said that he would be taking charge of Field Day since he has had no contact from the member that said they were going to chair this event. Bill KF5GJY said that he would be glad to host Field Day at his new business "The Pecan House" at the corner to 78 and 273. Roy, KE5WDG made a motion that we hold Field Day at The Pecan House and was seconded by Robin, KE5DQM. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Mark KF5KUW said that he would like to be able to include some activities for the entire family if possible.

Bill offered to make the pond located on the property available for fishing, as one of the activities. Robin, KE5DQM made a motion that we contact Brookshire's about catering the food for this event. This was seconded by Ivan, K5ILB. Motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. It was also asked if we would be interested in allowing vendors to join us, and potentially show their products and services at this event. One

Radio Day in the Park is planned for Friday, April 24th North of Ladonia. Mike, KD5UNY is in charge of this event. Mark, KF5KUW asked for any volunteer's that could assist with this event. Mike K5MJD, Robin KE5DQM, Roy KE5WD, Brian NØFOI, and Bill KF5GJY offered to attend if they are able. He will also publish another notice on Fanninhams with more details about the location.

NEW BUSINESS:

Darrell, KF5GHN is needing our help to put together a documented plan for how we would handle a "Storm Watch" activation, which he can give to the National Weather Service, and establish a program for FCARC. This plan should include how we can be activated, members that may be activated to run the net, spotter locations, etc. Mark KF5KUW will work with Darrell to see if we can get this done.

Mike, K5MJD reported that the Bonham Chamber of Commerce will have the annual "Bike Rally" this fall. Date to be determined. Also mentioned by other club members was the upcoming airshow, as well as an ARRL ARES drill happening May 1 - 2

Leo, N5JEP asked for assistance with APRS units for the "Tour de Paris" bike rally. K5FRC (FCARC) will loan 4 APRS trackers units for the Paris ARC to use at this event. Leo also asked for volunteers to help man the rest stops, and if anyone was interested to contact him.

Mark, KF5KUW wants to have a "NVIS" antenna construction event for our program at the May, 2015 meeting. He would like to make available listings of several NVIS antenna designs, as well as an equipment list for each one, so that any interested member would be able to join in and build their own NVIS antenna. Mike K5KJD said that this same day he would be on the Nautilus in Galveston, TX, and this would be a great test for any antennas we build.

A motion was made by Ivan, K5ILB and seconded by Mike, KD5UNY that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

David Reeder, VP
FCARC
Acting Secretary

(edited by Mark Hetherington)