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## OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2024\_0217

Martin started the meeting at 0905. 23rd of March 2024 is our next meeting.

Martin gave a presentation on the topic of "INTRODUCTION TO HAM RADIO BEACONS" to be posted on the web. 15 people in attendance. ARRL Greater Houston HamFest Fort Bend Fairgrounds 4310 TX 36S, Rosenberg TX. Friday March 1, 12-2000, & Saturday March 2. 0800-1500. The REFLECTOR will be used to put out information on collection of equipment that should be marked with Call Sign, price, condition, etc. Martin will be coordinating this through the website. Advanced Admission \$10, at the door, \$15.

The theme for today's meeting is how far out we can get signals out in the world. DX Exercise for getting simplex signal out, no repeaters, or computer type signals. Power vs Distance is the way the contest will be rated. They will be giving out gift cards for first, second, and third place. No D-Star or ECOE allowed.

HamFest (sponsored by the BVARC club) is coming up and Hal had a table last year. Most the equipment was from estate sales last year and there was a discussion about getting a table this year. Martin has about 2/3 of a table of old military stuff. Others offered equipment.

Web-SDR can be used and the way you use it is... you broadcast from your QTH like normal. Look up on Google for web-SDR websites located around the country (or even DX). Login to one or more of them and tune to your frequency and mode. Listen to your signal as it is picked up by the remote station, and with the internet latency you can hear what your signal sounds like - very helpful for adjusting mic gain and filters. Record your received transmission if you like.

<https://www.hamuniverse.com/hfbeaconpropogation.html> How to find beacons. There are 18 such stations spread to all corners of the globe, started in 1979 and up since 1995 to full strength. NCDXF Beacon has stations at VE8AT Canada, KH6WO Hawaii, RR90 Russia, JA2IGY Japan, and a lot of other locations.

[Www.ncdxf.org/beacon/index.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/index.html)

[www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=-ZhWEOskHgA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=-ZhWEOskHgA) was shown at the meeting.

1007 HamFest and Sales and Buying were discussed.

Alan (TranStar host) gave out door prizes just before we adjourned.

End of Meeting. 1033

*Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN*