
OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2025_0125

Mark Landress WB5ANN opened the meeting at 0918 and current business was discussed.

Dues were collected at this meeting. Finances are as of 12/2024; \$3013.70. We took in over \$200 today. Our biggest expense is \$200 / year for insurance. We are also paying for Zoom service. We are getting more integrated into the HAMS group and their repeaters.

More hands-on projects were discussed, such as J-Pole antennas and minor costs of connectors.

Soldering classes were discussed for the future meetings. Red Cross has less restrictions regarding training on things like soldering. Anything burning does not work well at TranStar.

Order of Business. We may have to vacate by 10 due to another group using this spot at the Red Cross. We will then go to the Radio Room.

Activity Calendar has not been updated in a while and at Breakfast there were discussions about updating the Calendar regarding upcoming activities monthly.

Field Day is coming up. Ham Fest in Orange is coming up. They moved from the convention center to another location and few vendors were in attendance. It was located at some kind of FFA location north of I-10. 21-22 of February is the upcoming date of the Ham Fest.

IF the meeting is changed it will be to the 3rd Saturday in February.

Brazos Valley Ham Fest is in Rosenberg is in March. They have a lot of participation at that meeting. They have AARL, AERES, and some of the Emergency Radio Equipment trucks there. This information is PROBABLY on the Internet.

Belton Show is in March or April, and is a very Techy show with specialty radios and good information. Mark has overnighted this show and is usually done by noon. The Mammoth National Monument is close to the show & worth going to see.

July is Texas City Ham Fest. There is a lull until the fall and the Belton Ham Fest in October. Baytown has had a fest in the Fall.

Field Day is in June, and it will be here at the Red Cross with the ECHO guys

Hal talked about using the NET for check ins for the storms we have had in the past. Hal asked for volunteers for running the NET in the future. There were 3 volunteers. We should be monitoring 17 throughout the year. 145 is the channel that was discussed.

The new LINK system has new tones and so some of the old repeater codes will work & others will not. They are linked up with the WIN system. Mark is sending out the revised list with the new link information. They are changing tones etc., and Mark is going to put out the information with the updates. The REPEATER BOOK is *usually* pretty good, but the TX VHS society has been trying to coordinate the frequencies and the tones, etc. The 17 & 000 frequencies, and other repeaters are going to be updated to ALLSTAR Systems, along with CACTUS from Brazoria to Corpus Christi is all being put together (hopefully in 2025). Some repeaters are going to be linked to FUSION and other systems. The system is being set up to work more efficiently and at less cost overall.

AllStar and EchoLink was discussed. There is no Internet available at the Chase location any longer, which is an impediment. The EchoLink is run now from the Red Cross Building.

HAMS Radio meeting is in January 30, 2025 at 3522 Liberty Dr., Pearland TX from 1900-2100 & their website is <https://www.qsl.net/hams/> Houston Amateur Mobile Society Pre-Meeting is at 5 PM at Kellys just down the street.

The roster was passed around for everyone to check to see if their information is correct.

New Officers were discussed, and we seem to be continuing as we are for the present.

1025 we adjourned to the Radio Room

Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN