
OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2024_0525

0913 the meeting was started.

June 22, 2024 is scheduled for our next meeting and coincides with ARRL Field Day.

We will be meeting at the Red Cross facility.

2700 Southwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77098

Other monthly meeting dates are:

July 27

August 24

September 28

October 26

November 16

December 14th will probably be the Xmas Dinner

Discussion

Mark Landress (WB5ANN), (acting club president, VP, VE, secretary and treasurer) gave a treasurer report: There is \$3023.70 in the account. Mark showed the spreadsheet for expenses and income.

There are 33 paid members, 66 total for the last four years. The Texas Comptroller report was made for the club. ARRL membership is being taken care of. Mark showed a spreadsheet was put up with the membership status indicated by the background color. Members with green background are active and paid up; yellow background indicates paid up members in the past 2 years but are not actively participating.

ARRL Field day is June 22-23, and discussion lead by Mark regarding the location of the Field Day. Red Cross Houston HQ off IH-69/Kirby is going to be available for our use. Members who operate from there will use the American Red Cross call sign for QSOs. The TranStar setup for Field Day is not available. Parking is in the rear in the parking garage. The radio room is accessible from the top floor of the parking garage. The other option is to go to the Brazos Valley Park and operate with the Brazos Valley club. Club Field Day websites are available (probably) if you do a web search.

<https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

July 13, 2024 is the Texas City Hamfest. Besides radio equipment there are merchants for ID, Name, and Call Sign tags. Even if you don't buy anything, it is important for us hams to attend and show support for the hobby... else these events will go away.

<https://www.tidelands.org/hamfest-2024/>

Tidelands Texas City Hamfest 2024

Saturday July 13, 2024

Doyle Convention Center

2010 5th Ave. N.

Texas City, TX 77581

8am – 2pm

Repeater Search can be found at: <https://txvhffm.org/repeaters/repeaters.php>

The Repeaters have (locally) the higher PL tone frequencies of 123 Hz and up are on the tallest buildings, & the lower PL tone frequencies (like 103 Hz) are on the less tall buildings.

At this website you can highlight the repeater characteristics like location, frequency, altitude, etc. and open and populate a spreadsheet with parsed information. You can then offload that spreadsheet into your programming software, such as CHIRP. That is a quick way to pull information from a web site and get the information into your radio.

Mark has created a spreadsheet for everyone who has tested through OFARC in the last 5 years. The spreadsheet has a format for notification of the ARRL of the persons who passed the tests.

Problems with the storm and lack of electricity were discussed.

Ralph (KE5HDF) gave a presentation regarding power lines and portable power supplies at 1023 hours.

The minimum safe distance away from high voltage (up to 50kV) power lines is 10 feet away. At 1000kV it is 25 feet. Power stations locally are 500 kV. Rain, fog and snow can build up static electricity. Also dust and smoke can cause you to need to be further from the wires. It is dangerous to build a fire under a high power line because flames ionize the air that creates a conductive conduit that increases the chances of a high voltage arc to ground. If you are raising an antenna near power lines, ground that antenna prior to raising the pole. Rubber sole shoes are best when working around anything that can pass electricity.

Ralph showed off his BALDR portable power supply, with 500W maximum output, weighing only 9 lbs. The internal lithium ion battery has a capacity of 400WH and can source up to 10Amps through the cigarette lighter socket. His is the model Pioneer 500B that (was) available through Amazon for about \$280. He runs solar panels to an inverter and into the battery charging.

<https://baldronline.com/products/baldr-portable-power-station-p500b>

Meeting ended 1045 hours

Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN