

JSCARC Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2023

Call To Order

President Terry Quick KA5TBB called to order the JSCARC regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6:36pm in the Discovery Room at the JSC Gilruth facility.

Attendees:

KA5TBB (President)- Terry Quick
KI5LQT (Vice President)- Danielle Plauche
K5RG (Treasurer)- Ken Goodman
W5OC (Secretary)- David Lee
KG5URA- David Kimbrell
N5LOW- Terry Moore
KB5PGY- David Fanelli
KI5IFX- Bill Pohlchuck
W5HOO- Chris Counts
N5FWB- Jerry Steward
KG5U- Dale Martin
KI5RHQ- Curtis Evans
KG5LJZ- Jayant Ramakrishnan

Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Ken K5RG

Club Balance \$6978.07

This month's activity:

\$14 interest income from Wellby Financial Credit Union CD
2 new members added since last meeting
70 members officially paid to date

OLD BUSINESS

1. Club Safety Vest Procurement

Action: Danielle KI5LQT.

Contact vendor for specific quotes on muti sizes and our club's name. Target quantity 5. Status at next club meeting.

Current Status:

Danielle attempted to contact vendor seen @Rosenberg Hamfest but no joy. With previously suggested budget allocation of of \$200, sellers at Amazon.com have been found to make cheaper and customizable vests. Plan to purchase one and solicit approval before purchasing more.

Tentatively will include club logo and pockets, with lettering on back.
Amazon prices are 1/2 cost of local vendors local @ \$16-\$17 each approx.
Chris W5HOO offered to let folks see his customized vest.

Updated Action Danielle KI5LQT:

Purchase and assess sample of one Amazon vest; provide recommendation and seek approval for full procurement

2. Shack Benchtop Safety Issue

Action: Terry KA5TBB

Implement steel welded supports for benches (Benchtop Safety Issue). Consider hosting a TIG welding demonstration for those wanting to learn/observe. Status at next monthly meeting.

Current Status:

When ready, Terry will accommodate interested interns in a demo/class.

Measurement have been made; still need to buy tubing.

Will utilize plasma cutter (cutoff wheel)

Suggest social visit at Boonedogles afterwards.

Still intend to purchase materials at metal market (Metal Supermarket) on Winkler St.

This vendor is willing to sell small stock quantities.

Curtis KI5RHQ commented that the anticipated student intern's participation is uncertain due to ending of Spring tour.

some will be done 28th this month.

some already done.

some next month on the 12th

Updated Action Terry KA5RBB:

Purchase material or seek assistance for purchase. Determine and coordinate schedule with Student Lead, Curtis KI5RHQ.

3. W5RRR Website storage

Action: John AB5SS

Initiate procurement of AWS service and work with Dave W5OC for implementation on W5RRR website.

<AB5SS not present to provide status>

4. Hamfest at Gilruth Facility

Action: Jerry N5FWB

A carryover action from last week, Jerry reports he expended effort to find proper POC. After exchanging multiple exchanges with others, including Lisa Gurgos, he was

referred to Greg Della Longa. A meeting has been scheduled to discuss this subject with Jerry and Greg tomorrow (Feb 12). Danielle KI5LQT offered to support the meeting.

Current Status:

Jerry affirmed meeting with Gilruth on Feb 12. He proposed this activity be deferred until next year, so that coordination with vendors can be made in advance. Tentative target is October next year.

Action Closed

5. Shack add ons

Action: Jerry N5FWB

It was suggested that boom mics for the shack should be procured to ease the fatigue of holding a mic during extended operations. Also, footswitches and headsets were identified as candidate procurement items needed for the shack operators. John AB5SS commented that the shack currently has one footswitch. Identify items listed above for proposed procurement. Report back by March 9 meeting

Current Status:

Jerry identified and priced microphones and footswitches, consisting of a combination of Heil Pro 7 and RadioSport headsets+ footswitches.

W5OC commented that the RadioSport headsets were not necessarily comfortable for long duration use due to the heat buildup and heavy nature; KA5TBB believed the acoustic isolation overshadowed these concerns, due to the extraordinary noisy environment during multi-operator operations in the room.

The FlexRadios were incompatible with the Heil Pro 7 (Electret), after it was questioned why a procurement of the RadioSport was necessary.

Using HRO Dallas for quotes, Jerry provided a proposal which included headset + spares:

2x Heil Pro 7 dynamic headsets for the FTDX10

2x Heil Pro 7 dynamic headsets for the TS2000

4x RadioSport headsets for the FlexRadios (we have 2 Flex stations)

8x foot switches

The total for all was \$2739.20. Ken K5RG suggested the procurement of extra ear pads, so they could be removable and sanitized. Ken also proposed that the order be reduced by 50% since spares were not a high-risk need. Ken proposed a target budget limit of \$1500, with the intent for provide some flexibility for procurement changes as needed.

Jerry N5FWB agreed with the updated proposal and motioned to procure the 4 (vs 8) headsets.

Chris W5HOO seconded the motion. The purchase was approved.

Final approved itemized procurement limit was \$1500, which included:

2	Flex 6400M RS60CF Headset w/ Electret	\$339 ea
1	Yaesu FTDX10 Pro7 Dynamic Blue	\$249.95 ea
1	AD1YM Adapter	\$25.95 ea
1	Kenwood TS-2000 PRO7BU	\$249.95 ea
1	Kenwood TS-2000 AD1K Headset Adapter	\$25.95 ea
8	FS3 Footswitch	\$34.95 ea

\$1369.10 total + extra earpads

Note1: Ken K5RG commented that the Jerry's quote should have been for the Yaesu FTDX 101D (which resides in the shack), not for a FTDX 10. It is assumed there was no adjustment needed in the quote since vendor products are usually compatible.

Note2: A question if the EOC station needed headsets, too. There was no motion to include them in this procurement.

Action Closed

Miscellaneous Old Business

W5OC requested that \$40 reimbursement to Jeff AB4ME be issued for his expenses incurred from the club's \$5 CW key project. Approved by Ken K5RG/Terry KA5TBB.

W5OC asked if N5LOW trailer tire procurement had been reimbursed. KA5TBB responded with an affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Missing FT100D Radio

Terry opened the discussion regarding the missing radio and Yaesu tuner, which seemed to have happened after the recycling activity.

Ken K5RG, commented that its origin and possible real owner is not known, implying that the original owner may have picked it up.

Danielle KI5LQT asked if the club policy is to rely on insurance as a reactive measure or if a proactive means might be needed. During the ensuing conversation, there was some confusion on the the equipment that is currently insured.

< Ken K5RG: "... it is the equipment associated with the five Shack operating positions: two FLEX stations (Maestro, ATU option, KPA1500 linear),FTDX101D/FL-7000, TS-2000, FT-991A (remote station) and the BEKO HLV1000 VHF Linear.">

During the conversation, it appeared there had been no recent history of thefts in the shack. Terry KA5TBB voiced his concern that the common trust and honesty of its members allows the shack to have open and transparent use of the facility without excessive lockdown procedures. He wanted to resume keeping the shack with its existing honor systems, allowing for open borrowing equipment, as needed, without extensive controls.

Jerry N5FWB commented of his missing Motorola radios from the adjacent Scuba Shack. Terry KA5TBB announced a proactive measure by plans to change the cipher lock combination.

The updated policy for cipher lock combination issuance is:

Club Officers may provide the combination to any verified paid members, and the names must be provided to Ken K5RG for record keeping.

2. GoBox Radio.

The missing FT100D was planned to be incorporated into a club GoBox container. The search for a practical replacement was discussed. Danielle KI5LQT suggested we might seek the opinion of Dave KG5URA who conducts good assessments and has a popular IC7300. No formal action was taken.

3. APRS Digipeater Antenna

Dave KB5PGY requested help to install a new replacement antenna. This involves supporting the installation on top of the building 32 facility. Bill KI5IFX volunteer.

4. Other

Jayant KG5LJZ asked if the 160m antenna was functional. W5OC responded, "no", but would be resurrected during the next maintenance tower climb. An updated 160/80m shunt fed tower antenna will potentially be installed at that time. Dale KG5U commented that 160m SSB was not a very practical band for regular activity, if that was the basis for KG5LJZ's query. Dale shared that his experience had shown 160m SSB activity was essentially insignificant even during his high activity Curacao contest/DXpedition operations.

Terry N5LOW was planning to "show n tell" a CW VBand demonstration but we ran out of time.

A sad note: Dale KG5RU shared the passing of his good friend Richard K2NA, who passed during a tragic antenna accident. Condolences to Dale and the K2NA family.

Adjournment

Jerry N5FWB motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave KB5PGY seconded the motion. At 8:04, Terry KA5TBB adjourned the meeting.

Some members retreated to the outdoor parking lot to see Chris W5HOO's safety vest, located in his car.