

JSCARC Monthly Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2023

### **Call To Order**

President Terry Quick KA5TBB called to order the JSCARC regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7:08pm in the Inspiration Room JSC Gilruth.

### **Attendees:**

KA5TBB (President)- Terry Quick  
KI5LQT (Vice President)- Danielle Plauche  
K5RG (Treasurer)- Ken Goodman  
W5OC (Secretary)- David Lee  
KG5PVP Dan Nagala (President CLARC)  
K5KGH Kelvin Hickman (New member)  
N5LOW Terry Moore  
K5KUA Joe Gibson (N5LOW invited visitor)  
Don Kelly (KG5LJZ invited visitor)  
KG5U Dale Martin  
KB5PGY David Fanelli

## **1. Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Ken K5RG**

**Club Balance** \$6845.67

### **Monthly activity:**

#### Assets:

\$30 Membership/Donation from KE5TUG Rick Sullivan

\$20 Membership from Kelvin Hickman

#### Expenditures:

\$50 for pre-registration for July Tidelands Hamfest

Includes 5 registrations + 2 swap tables (for any JSCARC member use)

### **Reminders:**

Wayne Miner generously donated ammo cans and power resistors  
Donations continue to be accepted.

## **2. New business**

### **Field Day (FD)**

Dan KG5PVP, President of the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) was a special visitor to discuss FD planning. As per tradition, CLARC and JSCARC will plan to partner FD ops @ the Gilruth on June 24-25.

### **FD Topic 1: Sharing time slots to operate (especially in Digital Village)**

There were comments previously received that sharing on-the-air time especially in Digital Village was difficult or undefined. A mechanism to permit casual participants or visitors some operating time within the Digital Village was needed. The suggestion of using scheduled signup sheets was discussed, but nobody felt strongly this was practical given unsuccessful past attempts since assignments were missed and the rigor to structure detracted from the fun.

An adhoc (realtime) mechanism seemed to be a preferred choice of solutions, and we agreed to address this issue by anointing a formal FD Coordinator per mode (village). The FD Coordinator will serve as a facilitator to find operating time slots within the ongoing activities. Any operator or visitor can approach a FD Coordinator to request either a pre-scheduled (e.g., later in the day) or "first available" assignment to operate. FD Coordinators for each village were volunteered as follows:

Digital Village: KB5PGY David Fanelli  
SSB Village: KA5TBB Terry Quick  
CW Village: N5LOW Terry Moore

It was acknowledged that Digital Village has the most challenging work for accommodating an adhoc operator if a common radio is shared. Unlike SSB or CW when a visitor can immediately jump in and begin using a microphone or CW key, the Digital radio setups are uniquely implemented (sometimes in complex fashion) using different integrated software applications. A visitor, for example, must expend some time to be taught and mentored how to use the software tools on someone else's radio. David KB5PGY, who volunteered to be FD Coordinator for Digital Village, voiced his willingness to help coach/teach others to operate various digital modes.

Alternatively, a visitor can bring his/her own radio setup for use in any Village.

### **FD Topic 2: Public Liaison (Meet and Greet)**

The need was raised to identify a "point guard" to serve as the clubs' spokesperson/liaison/host for visitors and VIP was requested. Danielle KI5LQT volunteered. Her role in this capacity was unanimously accepted and appreciated, as many remembered that she successfully did an outstanding job last year. It was also mentioned that Curt Tallman WB5UZZ would be another valued asset to assist Danielle if he plans to attend FD. To date, no VIPs have been invited, but the club usually receives visits from both unexpected visitors as well as VIPs. The stepped-up effort to formally invite VIPs was noted. Nobody in attendance indicated an access with local or state elected officials who could be invited (VIP visitors provides the club bonus points).

It was voiced that Jayant KG5LQZ perhaps could personally invite the JSC Center Director, because of his existing working interface with the JSC senior board.

**Action: Jayant KG5LJZ**

### **FD Topic 3: GOTA (Get On the Air)**

Kelvin K5KGGH requested the status of GOTA for this year's FD operations. Although no plans are in place to install a GOTA station, the discussion of deferring a decision until next month was suggested, because to-date no students nor organized youth groups have been solicited nor scheduled. In the past, JSC student interns, girl scouts, or school licensed hams were candidate GOTA operators. The rules for GOTA restricts operators as:

- a) recently licensed since last FD
- b) generally inactive licensees
- c) non-licensed persons operating under the direct supervision of a control operator

An effort to solicit GOTA operators will be undertaken and statused at the next month's meeting.

**Action: Kelvin K5KGGH, Dave W5OC**

Kelvin agreed to be the FD Coordinator for a GOTA station if we can get some qualified operators and get the stations setup. The GOTA station is required to use a different callsign from W5RRR; Kelvin requested the use of the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club's callsign, KC5KBO, which was agreed upon without issue. KC5KBO is the club callsign for the Clear Creek Amateur Radio Club, a student organization for amateur operators (League City, Westbrook Intermediate) in the Clear Creek independent school district, sponsored by Kelvin K5KGH, the trustee. The namesake callsign belonged to Nick Lance (SK) with permission from his wife.

An on-the-air script for newbies was suggested.

#### **FD Topic 4: Safety Manager**

N5LOW reminded us to name a Safety Manager, whose role is to independently observe and invoke proper safety practices throughout the planning, setup, operations, and teardown of our SSB, Digital and CW Villages. Terry Quick was nominated and he accepted this role. Terry Quick served previously in this role.

#### **FD Top 5: Saturday Supper**

This year, Dan KG5PVP announced that the CLARC club will take responsibility for providing supper to the team on Saturday evening, June 24. Based on conversation, it appears BBQ is on the menu.

#### **FD Topic 6: Callsign for FD**

Use of the JSCARC's W5RRR callsign will be used this year. In the future, continuance of rotating FD callsigns between JSCARC's W5RRR and CLARC's K5HOU might be discontinued, since W5RRR was noted to command greater visibility and ease of use on the air.

#### **FD Topic 7: Setup Time**

The FD setups can begin any time before FD start time at 1800 UTC Saturday, provided W5RRR operations will be in operation no more than 24 consecutive hours.

#### **FD Topic 8: Emergency Power Bonus**

David KB5PGY reminded us that to receive the Emergency Power Bonus Points, conventional power can be used, but an emergency power source must be tested sometime during the Field Day operations. Any temporary use of a generator, solar panel, or battery would suffice to fulfill this requirement.

#### **FD Topic 9: Center/Facility Coordination**

Terry KA5TBB will handle the coordination:

1. Inform Gilruth management of FD operations and open public attendance at the Gilruth site.
2. Request Center Security to keep the back gate open overnight June 24/25
3. Reserve use of the Bluebonnet and Live Oak Pavilion (Friday June 23-Sunday June 25)

#### **Action Terry KA5TBB**

#### **FD Topic 10: EZ Transportation between Villages**

It was noted that John AB5SS' motorized scooter was terrific for moving between villages last year. Scooters or bikes might be good transportation devices to share as personnel get weary during the long hours and expected summer heat.

#### **FD Topic 11: QSL Cards**

Dale KG5U asked if existing QSL cards would suffice for this FD. Although it was discussed that a more current QSL card generic version would be helpful, there was not strong advocacy to act on this issue. Overall, members thought current card stock would suffice, assuming an SASE was provided.

### 3. Old Business

#### Club Safety Vest Procurement

**Action:** Danielle KI5LQT

*Continued research for vest*

**Status:** Danielle responded to the open action to purchase on Amazon vest for inspection. In parallel, she continued conversation seeking options with a vendor (hamwears.com) selling ham vests at the Rosenberg Houston Hamfest in April. The sample vest from Amazon, priced at \$25, was professionally modeled by N5LOW. The reflective mesh vest had multiple pockets, a name tag flap, printed B&W W5RRR patch logo on the front and large font wording on the back, "JSC Amateur Radio Communications" and "W5RRR". The hamwears.com vendor provided Danielle a quote of \$200 for qty 5. After several votes, we agreed to pursue an initial buy of vests through Amazon. Danielle generously donated the vest she procured from Amazon to the club.

**Action Closed Danielle KI5LQT**

#### Shack Benchtop Safety Issue

**Action:** Terry KA5TBB:

*Implement steel welded supports for benches.*

**Status:** Terry affirmed that the steel rod material has been procured.

Future work to be scheduled.

**Action OPEN Terry KA5TBB**

#### W5RRR Website storage

**Action:** John AB5SS

*Initiate procurement of AWS service*

**Status:** AB5SS not in attendance.

**Action OPEN John AB5SS**

### 4. OTHER TOPICS

Dale KG5U

Need someone to cover NCS when out of town in June.

Dale requests feedback and ideas and topics for the net.

Terry N5LOW

Suggests search at hamfest for new radio to outfit club's go-box.

Ken K5RG

Queries status of headset/boom mike procurement.

KA5TBB commented, "in work by N5FWB"

Terry KA5TBB

Announces that a Trustee is being sought for Battleship Texas club.

Danielle KI5LQT reads actual message sent earlier to the club

Dale KG5U comments that after revamp, ship may end up relocated outside of San Jac.

## **5. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM, by motion from Danielle KI5LQT; seconded by Ken K5RG.