

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Secretary Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA

After calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., our President Michael Higgins KI5ZIQ welcomed everyone especially for braving the cold weather tonight. He pointed out that there are hand-outs of information about the club in the back to let attendees know who we are and what we do.

After the pledge of allegiance Michael went over the meeting schedule briefly and made a few announcements about License Testing, Club Business, Winter Field Day Update, CW Class Update and the group discussion on our focus for the year to be held later in the meeting.

Members and guests were welcomed and we went around the room giving our names, call signs and the city where we live.

Out-going President James Shiplet KI5BMN gave a short report on the club's last year and showed us the new banner memorializing our 30th year. The club was started in 1994.

President Michael Higgins presented James Shiplet with a certificate thanking him for his service to the club.

In the Secretary's Report we approved the November minutes and since the December meeting was the Christmas party there were no minutes. The link to the minutes was provided on the slideshow via a QR code.

For the Treasurer's Report Ralph Jerome KI5NUK reviewed the highlights of the 2023 Budget. We had a profitable year coming in a few dollars below budget at end of year due to a few things such as the radios that Lee Sly N5SLY had donated that we sold.

The budget for 2024 is basically the same with a few additions — such as the need to update the website. Both budgets were approved.

Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA reported on news from ARES and TECO (Texoma Emergency Communication Organization.)

SKYWARN training next month is the 3rd Tuesday which is our regular meeting day. Therefore we will meet 27 February instead and everyone is encouraged to attend the training on the 16th. It will be held at Grayson College, Denison Campus at the Center for Workplace Learning from 6 to 8 p.m. No reservations are required. Just show up.

We are the eyes and ears for this part of the county because of the height of the local radar.

Marvin also reported that the Grayson County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program will be giving a class starting next month on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from February to October. This is a group of civilians trained to respond in case of emergencies. While several of us have been trained we have never been activated. The need is someone with a ham

radio and a team. Anyone interested in the class must register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/Hdb8a5c/2024GraysonCountyCERT>

Tamara Higgins KI5ZIP is our Social Media coordinator and would have given us an update on Facebook, Linked In, etc. and on our Website had she not been galavanting around Hawaii at the time. We know she would've preferred being here.

Additions to our website include a Google calendar which, once it's functioning, will keep us up-to-date on events and meeting information, a Ladies Net calendar and Facebook live recaps and Slideshows from our monthly meeting presentations (found under the GCARC Documents tab). Don't forget that all of our Club Net information is found on the website: the GCARC Information Net, ARES Training Net and the Ladies Net.

Upcoming Events are the Board of Directors' meeting which will be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Michael Higgins' KI5ZIQ house.

Winter Field Day is on January 27th and 28th. Set up is Friday January 26th.

The February club meeting has been changed this month to the 4th Tuesday, February 27th as previously noted.

The Hungry Hams Breakfast scheduled for January 20th at Grandy's at 8: a.m. is canceled so we can attend the CowTown HamFest in Fort Worth. David Darcy said that they set up on Thursday and Friday and the Hamfest is held Saturday from 7 to 3 at I20 and Wichita Street E. of I35 in south Fort Worth. He said you can find "broken and good" stuff.

The next Fox Hunt will be held at Winter Field Day on January 27th.

Club meeting training topics:

Weather safety presented by Roy Reed AF5VA

WFD Michael Coffman AB5MC

If you want to be involved in the Winlink training, please establish your winlink email beforehand at the Winlink website.

Cynthia moved (Roy seconded) to buy the filters we need for inhibiting interference between the active radios at field day. Motion passed.

James Frank KW5CW will be offering a course in CW starting in March or so. There will be a Basic course, an Intermediate course, and an Advanced course, each up to 8 weeks long. More information is available.

We concluded the meeting by holding a Discussion Workshop on the topic: Building a Common Sense Organization. We divided into four groups and discussed questions provided to get us thinking about the future of our club.

The ticket drawings resulted in Christopher Toon KJ5DLE winning the 50/50 and Lee Sly N5SLY winning the door prize.

Members in attendance: David Darcy KF5LKG, Andrew Bentley KG5SKM, Michael Higgins KI5ZIQ, Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA, Michael Coffman AB5MC, Lee Sly N5SLY, Ricky Jessen KG5FDT, Mike Mitchell NZ5K, Ralph Jerome KI5NUK, James Johnson KG5SJY, Lynda Tuma KF5JUO, Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA/AE, David Turner W5DRT, Greg Stratton KD0ZWV, Roy Reed AF5VA, Christopher Toon KJ5DLE, Les Key KI6LES, David Paige, Paul Ohashi, James Shiplet KI5BMN, Joe Hayes KJ5BFD, Colin Smythe KJ5BFE

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48