

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club  
February 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
Secretary Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA

President Michael Higgins K15ZIQ called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed everyone including several guests and a few new Hams who passed the test tonight! Congratulations to those. After the Pledge of Allegiance we went around the room to introduce ourselves.

Michael gave the Vice President's report who was unable to make it tonight. He gave a summary of a very fun and successful Winter Field Day held at Eisenhower State Park last month. Thanks to Michael Coffman AB5MC for doing such a great job organizing it.

We are looking into having recruiting booths at some of the local city and county events and we want to reach out to local organizations. If anyone is involved with the Lion's Club, Rotary, etc. please let us know about this possibility.

Secretary's Report included pointing out that the minutes are posted on our website. Since there were no additions or corrections to the minutes, they were approved. It has come to our attention that some of the things in our Constitution and By-Laws do not coincide with our club operations. Therefore we need a committee to go over them to either change those documents or the way we do things. They are minor things but it is important, as Roy Reed pointed out, that we follow them as our non-profit status depends on it. James Frank KW5CW, James Johnson KG5SJY, Tamara KI5ZIP, Roy Reed AF5VA and Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA agreed to be on that committee.

James Frank gave the Treasurer's Report detailing our expenses and income for the month. The report can be found on the GCARC website under the GCARC Documents tab.

Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA/AE reported on ARES and TECO News. Six of our members are attending the CERT training and those who have already been trained will be re-activated. We had about 20 club members attend the SKYWARN training last week.

Tamara Higgins KI5ZIP, our Social Media coordinator, reported on all of the social outreach we have going on including a Facebook page, Linked In, Instagram, Website, and more. She also explained that the purpose of our Ladies' Net which occurs the 4th Monday of the month is to encourage women to get involved, though men are always welcome at our nets. Tamara starts each net early on "Facebook Live" so people from all over the country and world can join in.

Upcoming Events — the Board of Directors' meeting which will be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Michael Higgins' K15ZIQ house.

The March Club Meeting is the 19th at 7 P.M. with testing at 6.

The Hungry Hams Breakfast scheduled for March 30th at Grandy's at 8: a.m. We will be talking about solar and off-grid power.

We don't currently have a Fox Hunt scheduled.

The Eclipse Event on April 8th is under consideration. There is an Amateur Radio national event for making contacts and we are considering other activities as a club. The Fannin County club is planning to focus on being available for emergencies since they are expecting thousands of visitors to the area. We all need to consider the possibility of food and gas shortages with such an influx of people.

The CW Course taught by James Frank KW5CW starts on March 4th at 7 p.m. at Michael Higgins' house. The size is limited to 15 and we already have 13 signed up.

With the upcoming changes in our community like the new businesses moving in and the housing growth, our club will be facing some challenges and hopefully will grow and make plans to reach out.

Roy Reed gave an excellent presentation on Storm Spotting. He talked about how to do it safely, when to move ahead of the storm, where the good spotting sites are in the county and what areas to avoid because of a lack of escape routes. His slide show and talk was superb.

The ticket drawings resulted in Joe Hayes winning the 50/50 drawing which he donated to the club (thanks, Joe!) and Greg Stratton KD0ZWV winning the door prize which was triple hex key set: standard, metric and star.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Members and guests in attendance: David Darcy KF5LKG, Andrew Bentley KG5SKM, Michael Higgins KI5ZIQ, Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA, Lee Sly N5SLY, Ricky Jessen KG5FDT, Christopher Toon KJ5DLE, James Frank KW5CW, Ralph Jerome KI5NUK, Tamara Higgins K15ZIP, David Turner W5DRT, Lynda Tuma KF5JUO, Joe Hayes KJ5BFD, Roy Reed AF5VA, Butch Todd N3HT, Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA, Cody Williams KG5GFI, James Johnson KG5SJY, Lynda Tuma KF5JUO, Greg Stratton KD0ZWV, Klint Catalone KI5ZIL, Levent Kahveci KB5TMU, Jimmy Patterson KC5OLH, Michael Hawk K5PKF, Alice Hawk KI5BWO, Max Phipps AA5KK, Charles Pool KG5TPT, Mike Gaffney KJ5EHC, Jeanne McCarthy, Tammy Breon, Paul Ohashi, David Paige, Tim Floyd, Laurie Thompson, Christin Umsted, and 1 other.