

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club
March 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Secretary Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA

President Michael Higgins K15ZIQ called the meeting to order at 7:04 and welcomed everyone. After the Pledge of Allegiance we went around the room to introduce ourselves. Michael reviewed the membership requirements and reminded everyone about hamclubonline (complete with QR code for quick access), a source for lots of information about our club, our membership and our calendar. Those who pass the Technician test at our testing session are automatically members of our club for 6 months without charge, unless they choose not to join.

The Secretary's Report, given by Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA, was short and sweet since the minutes are posted on the website. There were no corrections nor additions so they stood approved as posted. Cynthia announced the new members since our last meeting: Jeanne McCarthy KJ5FBI, Tammy Breon KJ5EZP, Christin Umsted KJ5FCW, Steven Ollman KC5NK, and Susan Wallick who is studying to take the Technician test. We are glad to have you all among us!

The Treasurer's Report was given by James Frank KW5CW and we accepted a donation of \$2,500 from NightHawk Investigations, Inc. as represented by Joe Hays KJ5BFD. He asked that part of the funds go towards the purchase of a trailer to enable us easy set up at events and mobile operations. He is working on a packet to distribute and elicit sponsorship and donations for GCARC. We are very grateful! Thank you, Joe.

Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA reported on ARES and TECO. ARES training Nets are the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and there is also a HF monthly ARES net on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 p.m. on 3.860 LSB. Marvin also reminded us of WINLINK Wednesdays which are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. CERT training has begun and several of our club members are attending.

Lee Sly N5SLY gave a report on the QSL Manager position. He will be retiring from this post after serving about 10 years so anyone interested, please come forward to be trained in this useful role. There is no mention of the QSL Manager in the By-Laws so we can choose to continue it or not, as we wish. The description of what it entails can be found in the current newsletter.

Lee announced that Ricky Jessen KG5FDT is our VE Team Liaison and has filled this role for several months now. We talked about the importance of having a quiet testing environment.

David Darcy KF5LKG gave us our ARRL update. He encouraged us to consider joining, though the membership may be a little pricey. He pointed out that ARRL defends our rights to use the

airwaves. They are constantly having to battle against the FCC wanting to reduce the frequencies we are allowed to use. For this we should be and **are** very appreciative.

Tamara Higgins KI5ZIP told us that the KG5SKM repeater is currently down so the Ladies' Monthly Net is cancelled for March. Everyone is encouraged to participate in our Facebook page as well as utilize the website regularly.

We are going to Bonham State Park to view the eclipse (about 3 minutes of totality) on April 8th. We have booked 8 Day Passes, which get 8 carloads in. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those who want to attend. We will cook out and chill.

Our calendar of meetings and nets was reviewed. These are posted in our newsletter and hamclubonline. The March 30th Hungry Hams will include information on Solar and Off Grid Power supplies. Next month is our "Bring a Friend" meeting (April 16). The purpose is to encourage more people to get involved in the possibly Life-Saving "hobby" that is Ham Radio Operation.

Other upcoming topics for our meetings are Digital Radio, WinLink, Echo-Link (May 21), Summer Field Day and Car Show (June 18), ARRL Update (July 16).

Wade Graves gave tonight's presentation on ARES and it's affiliated organizations. The information he gave was thorough and interesting. There is a network of emergency help available to all of us in the various agencies, not only for our involvement but more importantly for our protection. Wow! You had to have been there!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Members and guests in attendance: David Darcy KF5LKG, Michael Higgins KI5ZIQ, Cynthia VanSlogteren K5EKA, Lee Sly N5SLY, Ricky Jessen KG5FDT, Christopher Toon KJ5DLE, James Frank KW5CW, Tamara Higgins K15ZIP, David Turner W5DRT, Joe Hayes KJ5BFD, Mike Whitten KI5IPH, Marvin Schiavone KG5GMA, James Johnson KG5SJY, Greg Stratton KD0ZWV, Jimmy Patterson KC5OLH, Charles Pool KG5TPT, Jeanne McCarthy KJ5FBI, Tammy Breon KJ5EZP, Paul Ohashi, David Paige, Christin Umsted KJ5FCW, David Anderson KD5KPR, Don Levstik WD5JBC, Tony Levstik, Dennis Kaeding KZ0MBE, Susan Wallick, Dora Caywood KF5TDQ, Steven Ollman KC5NK, Mark Poweski K1MRK, Wade Graves KF5AUD and 1 other.