
BBARC Minutes of Meeting

February 14, 2023

The meeting was attended by 20 members and 1 visitor

KI5ANQ.....Scott.....Alpine

N5CET.....Charlie.....Alpine

K5WSA.....Bill.....Fort Davis

KG5LMG.....Marvin.....Fort Davis

KB5R.....Rusty.....Alpine

K7VEN.....Art.....Fort Davis

W5NPR.....Bill.....Alpine

KG5ZIB.....Judi.....Fort Davis

KI5SNZ.....John.....Alpine

WA5ROE.....Bob.....Alpine

WB5AZI.....Terry.....Fort Davis

K5ITT.....Kitty.....Fort Davis

KG5DZK.....Matt.....Alpine

KG5ZIC.....Pam.....Fort Davis

KE5WCP.....Stephen.....Fort Davis

KE5KNQ.....Rob.....Alpine

KD5KBU.....Jim.....Fort Davis

KI5ZVK.....Roy.....Alpine

W5JUW.....Lora.....Alpine

K5LON.....Lonny.....Van Horn

The location of the meeting was the Mason's building in Alpine. The meeting was called to order at 1905 (7:05pm) by President Charlie N5CET.

The January meeting minutes motion to accept was made by Rusty KB5R and seconded by Bill K5WSA. The motion carried.

Angie N5MVV gave the Treasurer's report. Lonny K5LON gave the Secretary's report. A motion to accept both reports was made by Billy W5NPR and seconded by Rusty KB5R. The motion carried.

Charlie N5CET opened a discussion regarding the club membership roster. Ultimately it was decided that the club roster will consist of two sections, a “members” list and a “friends” list. The “members” list will include only those people who are current with their club dues. The “friends” list will include who are not current with their dues.

In any given year, club dues are due and payable on January 1. If a member has failed to pay his or her dues by March 31 of that year, he or she moves from the “members” list to the “friends” list. After one year has elapsed and a person on the “friends” list has still not paid his or her dues, he or she will be removed from the roster. A motion was made by Rusty KB5R and seconded by John KI5SNZ, to adopt the procedures. The motion carried.

Charlie N5CET, noted that the club failed to prepare and submit a “ARRL Verification Report” to the American Radio Relay League(ARRL) in 2022 after having done so in 2021. It was decided that the report would be prepared in April, after the club determines how many dues paying members are on the club roster. After preparation, the “ARRL Verification Report” will be submitted to the ARRL. (It should be noted that in order to maintain ARRL affiliation, a club must have at least 51% of its members as ARRL members as well and at least 51% of its members must be licensed amateur radio operators.)

Charlie N5CET, noted that the information about the Big Bend ARC that is posted on the ARRL website is “stale” and needs to be updated. Scott KI5ANQ, will update our club information on the ARRL website.

Big Bend Ultra Run 2023. The various club members that provided communications support at the Ultra Run discussed with the club their involvement and duties that they carried out in support of the Ultra Run. Topics of the discussion included: What I Did, What Went Right, What Went Wrong, What Needs Improvement, Lessons Learned, Thoughts for Next Year, Primary and Secondary Frequencies Testing and Action Plan, and Computerized Logging. All the participants agreed that the support efforts were a fun, worthwhile endeavor and urged the members who did not participate this year to try and do so next year.

Winter Field Day. The club members who participated in Winter Field Day discussed their efforts and accomplishments, during the event, with the other club members. All the participants agreed that “working the event” was fun and exciting.

WinLink Training. Charlie N5CET, has completed one training session for the club. Some members who have completed the training have already used WinLink to pass emails. A second training session is scheduled for Saturday, 2/18/23, at the Ft. Davis fire station. WinLink Tuesdays, WinLink Wednesdays and WinLink Thursdays provide training forums for WinLink capable stations and hams.

Club RV Expenses. Bob WA5ROE, detailed to the club, some expenses concerning the club RV that he has paid for out-of-pocket. The expenditures included maintenance items, emergency repair items, and upkeep issues. The RV generator is due for maintenance, Bob will schedule it in the near future. Billy W5NPR made a motion that the club reimburse Bob for the money he has spent on the club RV, the motion was seconded by Rusty KB5R. The motion carried.

The CycleFest organizers have contacted Charlie N5CET. They have requested that the club, once again, provide communications support for CycleFest, in September of 2023.

New Antennas, Club RV. In order to improve the communications capabilities of the club RV, Charlie N5CET and Bob WA5ROE outlined to the club the need for a VHF/UHF base station antenna and a mobile HF antenna.

The current HF antenna in the RV is a field deployable one, not a mobile one. In past situations, when the RV was deployed under emergency circumstances the lack of a mobile HF antenna was a detriment. A motion was made by Bob WA5ROE and seconded by Scott KI5ANQ to purchase a dual-band VHF/UHF for the RV. The motion carried. No action was taken on a mobile HF antenna.

Charlie N5CET and Scott KI5ANQ initiated a discussion concerning the purchase of a computer for the RV for WinLink use. A WinLink laptop computer was suggested as a permanent addition to the RV for use during deployments of the RV when WinLink communications were desired or needed. The discussion was tabled and no decision, regarding the purchase of a computer was made.

Charlie N5CET, announced that Roy Herrera, a new club member, had passed the Technician test. He already has a new-in-the-box radio. Since the meeting, Roy has received his call sign. He is KI5ZVK.

Joint Net, BBARC/Permnet. BBARC club member Andrew Shephard NF5T, also a member of the West Texas ARC, in Odessa, has proposed that our two clubs conduct a joint net two times per year. Andrew, along with B. John McDaniel KE5PL (new BBARC member) are the chief architects and builders of the PermNet repeater system. PermNet has a repeater in the Glass Mountains, it is capable of linking into our system, through our 146.920 repeater, also in the Glass Mountains. Lonny K5LON, will contact Andrew and coordinate details regarding the proposed linking.

A nomination petition, to re-elect Dale Durham W5WI, as our ARRL West Texas Section Manager was circulated at the meeting.

Lora W5JUW, brought as her guest, her daughter-in-law, Theresa. She is interested in learning about ham radio.

Bob WA5ROE, announced that during our April meeting we will have a guest speaker. Foster K5EUZ, a former resident of Alpine will give a presentation. More details will be forthcoming at our March meeting.

Billy W5NPR, noted that Terry Allison WB5AZI and Kitty Allison K5ITT, were in attendance at the meeting. Terry told the group that he and Kitty had returned to the area (they live in Ft Davis) after retiring from a job that kept him on the road for 300 nights a year.

The Midland National Weather Service (NWS) will conduct a Skywarn training session at the Sul Ross Turner Range Animal Science Center on April 18, 2023. The session will be in room 130 and will begin at 7:00 pm. The center is one mile east of the main campus on Highway 90. There is no registration required, please attend. Historically, the Alpine training session is one of the best attended sessions that the Midland NWS hosts.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rusty KB5R and seconded by Terry WB5AZI. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2010 (8:10 pm).

Respectfully submitted,

Lonny Hillin
Big Bend ARC Secretary