

**Approved Version**

**Houston Echo Society Meeting  
American Red Cross Building  
January 29, 2005**

Meeting Participants Present

Marty Blaise, AG5T – Vice President/ Acting President  
Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE – Recording Secretary  
Kent Marshall, W5TXV – Parliamentarian

**Members Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>ARRL Member?</b>
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Kent Marshall	W5TXV	YES
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Mark Tyler	K5GQ	YES
Michael Urich	KA5CVH	YES
Ed White	W7KSX	

The meeting was called to order approximately 9:00 am.

**Agenda**

- Welcome
- Old Business
  - Correspondence
  - Status on 147.08 Repeater
  - P.O. Box Rental renewal (January 31)
  - Web site and News letter
- New Business
  - Meeting Dates and Time
  - Election
  - Other business
- Loop Project/ Demonstration

Marty opened the meeting. All introduced themselves.

**Announcements:**

- Mike Urich volunteered to complete the ARRL Club Update form and return it to ARRL.

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- We received a solicitation from the Red Cross. We have a donation scheduled later in the year.

## Old Business

- The P.O. Box fee is due January 31, 2005. The cost is \$126 annually. Our discussion brought up the fact that the P.O. Box provides
  - Permanent address for the organization. In the early years the club's "permanent" address moved around frequently and was a source of frustration.
  - We receive a minimal amount of mail so it isn't a burden to check
  - A permanent address is needed for tax purposes
  - It is posted on our web site
  - Mark Tyler made the motion to continue the box, and Kent seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Meetings – We discussed the date, time and frequency of a replacement meeting in lieu of the long-standing last Friday night of most months. The advantages of many dates and time were discussed, but it was proposed by Mike Nault and seconded by Kent Marshall to move the meeting to the **SECOND MONDAY of each month**. The general meeting would start at 7:30 pm and the pre-meeting, eating meeting at 6:00 pm. The first instance would be March 14, 2005. High points of the discussion included:
  - Echo would focus on emergency communication service and related events (fun runs, community service, etc.) that provided training and experience in near-emergency event management
  - Kent stressed that meeting at least once per month was important to the vitality of the organization
  - The club would continue discussion of general interest for all topic of amateur radio
  - Effort would be made to have speakers that would draw high participation at least once each quarter
- Repeaters 147.08 – Members there pooled what is known about 147.08 MHz Repeater
  - The repeater was down. It appeared that mica capacitors in the power amplifier had to be replaced.
  - Lee and Ransom were coordinating the installation of the Spectrum backup repeater to temporarily replace the dead Motorola while Dave Paperman worked on the transmitter unit.
  - The dead transmitter had been removed by Mike Walker, KG5CM, and is coordinating getting it to Dave for repairs. Mike replaced the capacitors that Dave sent him, but to no avail.
- Web Site and Newsletters – Gary Ramey graduated, got a job, and now lives in Bolder, CO.
  - Mike Urich volunteered to become the web master. He showed us a representative view of the new web site.

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- Marty solicited input for the Newsletter and a Newsletter editor.

## New Business

- Elections – Elections will be held in March. The officers are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary (Correspondence, Recording, or combination), Parliamentarian, and Web master. Additionally a membership Chair would be a valuable asset to the organization.
- Mike Urich presented a profile of CLARC as a contemporary example:
  - They perform 18 – 24 public service events per year
  - Have a three year equipment and service plan
  - Recently acquired new repeater and antennas
  - Have 25 active core people
  - Active Field Day

## Other business

- Field Day
  - We are planning to be active at Red Cross again this year
  - Mark Tyler is looking for additional computers – he is down to one Windows 95 capable of running the logging program
  - We need filters to operate an effective Multi-operator effort
  - Mike Nault reported that Red Cross' beam is on the ground. The elements have been repaired, but good weather is needed on a Saturday to get it back in the air.
  - Colin wants to have better organization around the scheduling, and general operational planning. We need non-Windows 2000/ XP laptops that can support and have TR loaded. Additionally, we could use a PCMCIA Ethernet card to support Internet connectivity.
  - Mark suggested a pre-assigned time and on what mode.
  - Any filters would be dedicated to an antenna – HF Beam, G5RV “dipole,” HF “loop,” wire antenna associated with the SGC radio
  - Echo's 2004 PSK score was good
  - Filters must be manually adjusted, as the rigs at Red Cross are older models that have no switch band information via output interface.
  - An ICOM 736 is the newest rig available.
  - There is also a Kenwood 450.
  - Mark and Lee to pursue filters combination that allow the station to be worked with two stations in different band segments to be active on 20 meters simultaneously, and one station on 40 meters.
- We looked at Marty's Receiving loop antenna project.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm