

Approved

**Houston Echo Society Meeting
American Red Cross Building
June 13, 2005**

Officers & Chairs

President Marty Blaise, AG5T
 Vice President, Kent Marshall, W5TXV
 Treasurer Richard Banks, WC5O
 Correspondence Secretary Mike Nault, W5OFT
 Recording Secretary Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE
 Parliamentarian Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT
 Web master Michael Urich, KA5CVH
 Membership Chair B. Frank Secor, Jr., KB5VSY
 Newsletter Editor _____ OPEN _____

K5NAV – Section Communications Manager

Members and Visitors Present

Name	Call Sign	ARRL Member?
Mike Almaguer	KC5VHG	
Richard Banks	WC5O	No
Howard Bingham	KE5APJ	YES
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
John Callahan	KR5K	
Mike Davidson	N5MT	YES
Charles "Frosty" Frost	K5LBU	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Ron Greene	WA2PCY	
Frank J. Genouga	KM5RT	YES
Al Janak	W5ATP	No
Colin Jenkins	KU5B	Yes
Barré Kelley, Jr.	KE5FAF	
Zachary Kelley		
Lawrence S. Levy	WD5DRB	
Kent Marshall	W5TXV	YES
Ken Mitchell	KD2KW	
John Moore	KK5NU	No
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Frank Robichaux	N5EJX	YES
Paul Rubin	N8NOV	YES
B. Frank Secor, Jr.	KB5VSY	YES
Phil Swartztrauber	W5GCT	
Mark Tyler	K5GQ	YES

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The meeting was called to order approximately 7:30pm.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Presentation by Ken Mitchell, KD2KW
- Old Business
 - Announcements
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and Newsletter
 - Treasurer's
- New Business
 - Discussion of Field Day Plans by K5GQ & WA5QXE
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 - Other business
- Projects/ Demonstrations

Marty opened the meeting. All introduced themselves.

Welcome

Everyone introduced himself or herself. There was a large crowd!

Presentation

Marty introduced our ARES District Emergency Coordinator, Ken Mitchell, KD2KW.

Ken told about starting of training at the high school levels for CERT. The kick-off meeting was in August. Sixteen schools are on the list. It is known as 'THE SCHOOL PROJECT.' Information on the training or details may be received by emailing Ken:

Kenm1@ev1.net

KD2KW2yahoo.com

Ken is serving as the ARES District Emergency Coordinator for Harris County.

- Need emergency call-out of 140 for ARES
- Part of Homeland security effort
- MOU development
- Information is available at www.arrlstx.org/nwhcares

Announcements:

- Public Service Events:
 - Mike Hardwick, N5ECX, is looking for volunteers for the Katy Flatlander Bike Ride on July 17.

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Info: http://www.northwestcyclingclub.com/club/rides/kfc.html?event_id=1109249
NEED 20 OPERATORS FOR 1-DAY RIDE IN THE KATY AREA.

Old Business

- Treasurer's report: \$2,732.86 in the bank according to Richard Banks & the bank statement presented by Al Janak.
 - Richard discussed moving the bank to a closer bank than Chase. Some discussion ensued. Richard is looking for a bank downtown.
 - A suggestion was made to examine all fee charges before making the/a move.
 - Al Janak made a motion was made to allow the treasurer to investigate and move the Echo checking account from Wells Fargo to a more convenient bank downtown. The motion was seconded by Kent, W5TXV. The motion passed.
- Frank Secor presented a mock-up of the new Echo membership certificate and membership card.
- Repeaters Reports: 147.08 , 224.26, 147.32 all working

New Business

- **Field Day**
 - Mark, K5GQ, covered computer based logging. Mark discussed his experience with WRITELOG – the \$90 purchase and \$25/ year renewal software.
 - HEIL microphone needs power
 - A converter plug would be needed for different rigs, as the plug is not consistent
 - Mark was able to sustain a Q rate of nearly 100 per hour with the WRITELOG program on CW at a recent QSO Party exercise
 - Mark described the interface he is familiar with between the rig and the PC
 - The newer version of WRITELOG features a PF key for voice clip storage and play-back
 - Version 6 appears to be available free at QRZ website. Currently WRITELOG is at version 10.
 - Mark spoke briefly about TR. TR has advantages of embedded CW control – you can send messages at varying CW speeds. It also shows the ARRL sections completed as you work them.
 - Field Day's 3rd Rig will be the Elecraft K2. It was reported that the K2 exhibits little noise below 400Hz so it may be an excellent SSB rig.
 - We need to construct a display for the public information area in front of the Red Cross.
 - **ACTION ITEM FROM LAST MEETING:** Pre-write the radiograms that we intend to send during the Field Day exercise. Determine who the recipients are.

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John Moore is adept at sending and operating net procedure and should be able to give a demonstration on the how to and how not to handle messages.

Presentation Postponed – ran out of time

- **ACTION ITEMS BEFORE Field Day:** Lee emailed volunteers' lists and
 - Emailed the updates to everyone on the list
 - Added instructions to the TR software link
 - Send updates on Field Day planning documents to everyone who has “signed up” and any other information pertinent to Field Day
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- **BPL:**
 - Mike Davidson, N5MT spoke about the BPL trial with CenterPoint.
 - Mike naturally is the “field point-person,” as his interest is direction finding (DF)
 - Mike discussed the goals of the CenterPoint BPL trial. He discussed the physics of the system and radiation problems.
 - He has concentrated his efforts around the 4500 block of Richmond
 - He showed pictures of some BPL hardware to the participants.
 - Mike found 20 of the alleged 35 sites
 - Three (3) BPL boxes are located within a block – a far cry from the ½ mile distance reported earlier
 - Mike relayed his experience with a lady at a garage sale about the information CenterPoint distributed.
 - Of the hams in the affected area, one is deceased (SK) however the other is an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator and has access to a spectrum analyzer
 - Information available at www.txbpl.com per Kent Marshall
- **DX Report:** Frosty, K5LBU reported that 6 & 2 meters have been opened and that 6 meters could be opened Field Day.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm {Lee Gaspard motion/ Frank, N5EJX 2nd }