

Houston Echo Society Meeting
American Red Cross Building
April 10, 2006

Officers & Chairs

√_ President Marty Blaise, AG5T
√_ Vice President, Paul Rubin, N8NOV
√_ 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 Frank Robichaux, N5EJX

Members and Visitors Present

Name	Call Sign	ARRL Member?
Richard Banks	WC5O	No
Cynthia Beniretto	N5TGS	Yes
Jeff Beniretto	N5TGR	Yes
Howard Bingham	KE5APJ	YES
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
Mike Davidson	N5MT	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Alan Isaachsen	KB2WF	Yes
Joe Judah		
Kent Marshall	W5TXV	YES
Charlie Matthew	N0XFD	Yes
Jeff Mc Millin	KE5BRC	No
John Moore	KK5NU	No
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Frank Robichaux	N5EJX	YES
Paul Rubin	N8NOV	YES
Phil Swartztrauber	W5GCT	
Mark Tyler	K5GQ	YES
Michael Urich	KA5CVH	YES
Hal Merritt	KD5HWW	Yes

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The meeting was called to order approximately 7:33pm.

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Reading & Approval of Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Presentation – "WINLINK" - by Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF
- Field Day Coordinator – Charlie Matthew, N0XFD
- Old Business
 - Announcements
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and Newsletter
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Discussion of Field Day results
- New Business
 - Other business
- Projects/ Demonstrations
- Adjourn

Marty opened the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Welcome

We went around the room and everyone introduced himself or herself.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 13 meeting were approved as amended by Lee Gaspard to correct the referenced Wells Fargo bank address (Lee pasted the wrong address for the Wells Fargo branch bank's address). Michael Ulrich, KA5CVH, made the motion and Mike Davidson seconded the motion.

Presentation

The presentation was a joint one between **Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF and Hal Merritt, KD5HWW**. Alan began by stating that WINLINK has now become the major system for sending email for emergency operations and emergency operations systems.

Hal Merritt, KD5HWW demonstrated the following:

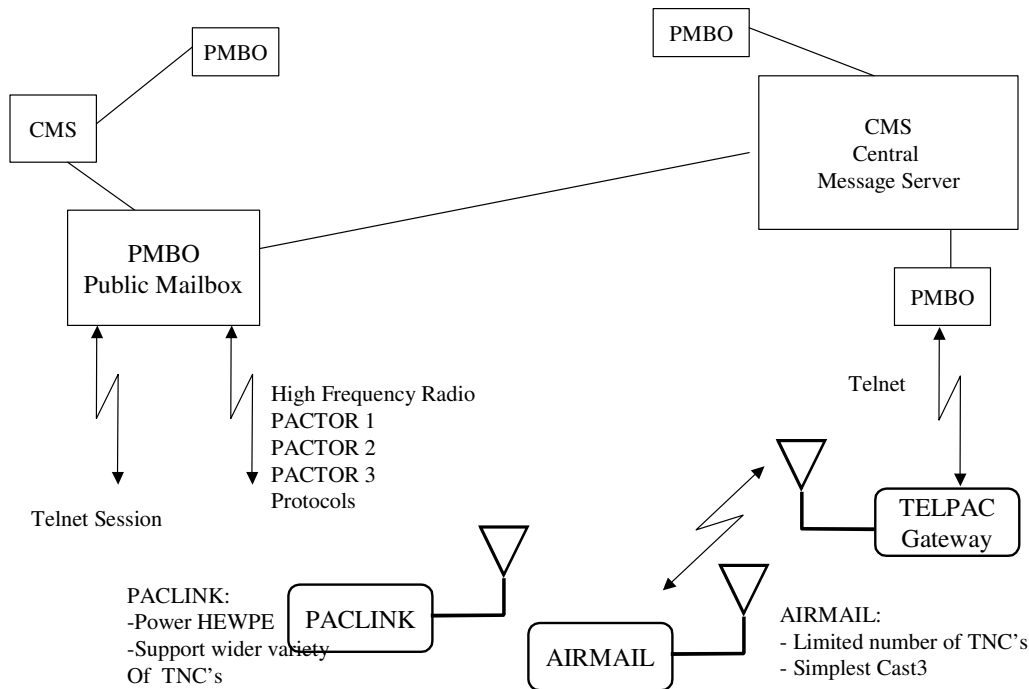
- Telpac node communication
- Airmail (email add-in); the forms/ format for communications, and the ease of use of the system. Hal noted that email is good for sending detail information or information that can be classified as semi-confidential.
- Set-up of the down-loaded programs required for WINLINK. Hal walked us through the "added information" we needed to supply to individualize the program's setup and then simply "hit apply and then OK."
- Airmail supports GPS receiver input and can automatically report a station's location as part of the email structure
- MARS recently changed over to WINLINK

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- Hal spoke of the PNBO function of Airmail. PNBO can support dial-up lines as well as full-time connected ones.
- Telpac supplies a list of PNBOs from your coordinates in the list of PNBOs and their corresponding distances from your station
- Airmail calculates your dial frequency for you radio; help files shows “creative” radios for display
- Actual message is compressed
- Can send attachments, but the attachment must be limited to less than 100K considering the speed of the link. Other suggestions include
 - Use forms such as IC1513
 - Spreadsheets should be sent as *.cvs rather than *.xls
 - Word documents send *.rtf rather than *.doc
 - These formats send smaller files
- Typical attachments used for emergency communications include
 - Shelter occupants lists
 - Supply requests
 - Supply lists
 - Duty rosters
- Don't send DEATH NOTICES
- WINLNK can accommodate “cc's” just like in email
- KPC 3+ is a good TNC for Winlink; other includes PK232, CAM Plus, and CAM Excel. However avoid MFJ for WINLNK and TASCOTNC {type built into Kenwood radios – good on APRS – bad on WINLINK)
- 50% - 60% of Houston area is covered via the Telpac nodes
- We have no HF no PMBO
- We have a half-dozen portable HF stations
- We did not use much HF WINLINK capabilities for Katrina & Rita
- Many participants are moving to expand the use of digital communications. An example is Catholic Charities who is trying to put a WINLINK terminal in all their major response points
- Keep you eyes open for announcement for WINLINK workshops sponsored by ARES. We have sponsored some, but need more.

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Winlink Elements



Announcements:

- Marty announced at the beginning of the meeting that the club had received an **ARRL Tape on Disaster Preparedness and Public Service**

Old Business

- Treasurer's report: \$3,192.86 in the Bank
- Repeaters Reports: 147.08 was removed from service during the day of the meeting. This is the back-up repeater for 147.08 as the primary's final is being repaired by Dave, W5WP. 224.26, 147.32 all working, but could use a bit of attention after 147.08. Kent Marshall gave the status of 147.00 – the interference of some “local carrier” occasionally blanked even local mobile stations.
- Charlie Matthew lead a FD 2006 planning discussion as Field Day Coordinator

New Business

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- Charlie Matthew, N0XFD, lead us in a short discussion/ a short presentation on Field Day 2006:
 - The place will be the **Red Cross** to do Field Day at the **Houston Chapter House Radio room**, barring any early season hurricanes or other disasters that would affect the location's availability
 - We again are planning to operate **3F** using **SSB/ CW/ and Digital Modes**
 - This year, Charlie continued, emphasizes the **G.O.T.A. station** and bonus.
 - Charlie urged us to work to set up a **packet radio demonstration**.
 - Charlie also spoke about firing up the VHF stations.
 - Charlie has scheduled some **Field Day work days for April 29 & May 6.**
 - Kent Marshall volunteered that he has enough aluminum tubing to build 6 or 7 single band beams. Kent also has a three element beam that has been used in the past for field day operations. Two beams may help our radiating efforts! Kent also has coax that he can loan.
- Lee Gaspard mentioned that he has received information on club liability insurance from Marsh Insurance, 1776 West Lake Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50398.
- Kent Marshall made a motion (2nd by Mike Urich) to send a letter to Don Pappas, WB2GWV, reminding him of the new meeting dates and time since we do not have his email.

The meeting adjourned about 9:00 pm after a motion was made & seconded by Kent and Mike Urich