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Houston Echo Society Meeting American Red Cross Building January 9, 2006

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?
Richard Banks	WC5O	No
Cynthia Beniretto	N5TGS	No
Jeff Beniretto	N5TGR	No
Howard Bingham	KE5APJ	YES
Charles Birkhead	Not yet	Yes
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
Mike Davidson	N5MT	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Franz Laugermann	K3FL	YES
Larry Lawson	KK5KE	Yes
Kent Marshall	W5TXV	YES
Charlie Matthew	N0XFD	Yes
Jeff McMillin	KE5BRC	No
Ken Mitchell	KD2KW	Yes
John Moore	KK5NU	No
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Frank Robichaux	N5EJX	YES
Paul Rubin	N8NOV	YES
Glenn Sparks	KI5GY	YES
Phil Swartztrauber	W5GCT	
Mark Tyler	K5GQ	YES
Michael Urich	KA5CVH	YES
Jim Tolar	W5SQE	Yes
Cesar Merger		
Robert Bliss	KE5GBQ	Yes
Bill Hardy		

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Greg Hardy		
Charlie Coton		
Gina Gunn		

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

Agenda

- Welcome
- Four Short Presentations
 - Introduction to Ham Radio – Marty Blaise, AG5T
 - Repeaters – Basic Information and Proper Protocols – Kent Marshall, W5TXV
 - Installing Your First Mobile Radio – Mark Tyler, K5GQ
 - Equipment (Other than Radios) for the New Ham – Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE
- Old Business (Shortened or dispensed)
 - Announcements
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and Newsletter
 - Treasurer's
 - Discussion of Field Day results
- New Business
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 - Other business
- Projects/ Demonstrations

Marty opened the meeting. All introduced themselves.

Welcome

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

Presentation

Four Short Presentations

- Introduction to Ham Radio – Marty Blaise, AG5T

Marty gave a short power point presentation that gave the new comer an understanding of what you can and cannot communicate via Amateur Radio, discussed several modes of operation, and spoke of special events such as Field Day.

Marty discussed special operations and protocols such as WINLINK that is used for emergency communications. He also spoke of special events and public service events that Amateur Radio operators support via special communications and message passing support. Such an event is the

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MS-150 bicycle ride from Houston to Austin that is scheduled this year for April 22 and 23. Another event of similar caliber is the Houston Marathon race.

- Repeaters – Basic Information and Proper Protocols – Kent Marshall, W5TXV
Kent Marshall gave a spirited discussion on repeaters basics, repeater protocol and repeater etiquette. Kent stressed the legal guidelines associated with repeater operations and emphasized courtesy in operating practice.

- Installing Your First Mobile Radio – Mark Tyler, K5GQ
Mark demonstrated the do's and don'ts of installing a mobile Amateur Radio in a vehicle. Mark discussed mounting the antenna, bringing power to the radio equipment, and routing cables so they don't get damaged during normal driving.

Mark showed his set-up for rental cars – complete with magnetically mounted antennas, coax with BNC adapters. Mark also discussed the difference between “temporary” set-up and permanent installation.

Mark focused attention on power connections for the mobile rig:

- Place a fuse in both the positive and negative leads
 - The standard connector type is the Anderson Power Pole connector that is rated to handle typically 10 – 15 amperes
 - Use of BUSS fuses installed close to the battery's connection
 - Proper crimping of power leads to connectors; covering leads to prevent corrosion.
 - Power filtering should be used to prevent alternator whine.
 - Automotive grade cabling should be used to have the proper temperature rating/grade for the under-the-hood automotive application. Mark suggests Teflon insulated wire
- Equipment (Other than Radios) for the New Ham – Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE

Lee started his presentation by posing the question, “So you have passed the Amateur Radio Examination, have received your ticket what do you need to do next?” There is the subject of acquiring radios: HF transceivers, VHF and UHF transceivers (or combination rig), microwave equipment. However, you will need some basic equipment to make your experience with the radios pleasant and productive.

Lee suggested the following list below to assist you in developing your station accessories. If your budget is “tight,” the order presented reflects the repeated need you will have in Amateur Radio and its relative order of acquisition should maximize the benefit for you in the future.

Basic Electronic Equipment Tools and expendables

- Assortment of Screwdrivers (small, medium, large – straight and slotted)
- Assortment of Drivers (nut, torqs, hex, Allen, etc.
- Soldering Iron/ Gun (wattage range from 3 – 100+ Watts) and Solder
- Needle-nose pliers and other pliers

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- Multi-meter to measure voltage, current, and resistance
- Wire cutters (side cutters, specialized cutters, wire strippers, etc.)
- Electrical tape
- Crimp tools for wire connectors (many kinds of crimp tools!)
- Wire tie-wraps, assortment of connectors for coaxial cabling, power cabling, fuses, etc.
- Spare fuses to fit your radio and power system needs

Basic Amateur Radio Accessories

- Power supplies: AC to DC
 - Typically need a well regulated “12 VDC” 8 – 15 Amp power supply for high-power (50 watt) VHF/ UHF transceivers
 - “12 VDC” 20 – 30 Amp Regulated Power Supply is needed for most Amateur Radio HF transceivers in the 100 Watt – 200 Watt output class
- SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) Bridge – measures the match between your transmitter and the antenna at the operating frequency. Some SWR meters can measure power, ie watts.
- Antenna Tuner – matches the impedance of your “RIG” (transceiver) with you antenna.
 - Manual – most HF equipment manufactures, MFJ, & others
 - Automatic - many HF equipment manufactures on select rigs; check QST
 - Some antenna tuners have built in SWR bridges
- Microphone & Morse code key
- Headphones
- Dummy Load

Next Amateur Radio Accessories

- Digital mode interface – sound card interface MFJ, tigertronics,
- Antenna analyzers – Autek Research, MFJ, others

Announcements:

Ken Mitchel KD2KW will be presenting a WINLINK seminar on February 11.

Mike Hardwick, N5ECX is looking for 80 – 120 Amateurs for the MS-150 support.

- Two medical technicians and one amateur radio operator are assigned to each Ambulance
- The moving event spans a range of 60 miles
- The speed of the event is 13 – 17 miles per hour
- The daily “end times” are between 4 pm to between midnight to 3 am!
- The MS-150 experience is good training for catastrophic events such as Hurricane Andrew (1994) and other emergency situations
- The MS-150 Event is April 22 and 23

The Houston Marathon is being held on January 15 based from the George R. Brown Convention Center.

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Old Business

- Treasurer's report: Deferred
- Repeaters Reports: 147.08 , 224.26, 147.32 all working

New Business

- **None**

The meeting adjourned about 9:14 pm