

Approved Version

The meeting was called to order approximately 7:40pm.

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Reading & Approval of Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Presentation - "Soldering Basics" - by Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT
- Field Day Coordinator – Volunteer ?
- Old Business
 - Announcements
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and Newsletter
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Discussion of Field Day results
- New Business
 - Movement of Bank Account
 - Other business
- Projects/ Demonstrations
- Adjourn

Marty opened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Welcome

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 13 meeting were approved as amended. Kent Marshall moved and Phil Swartztrauber seconded the motion. The two amendments were 1) reflecting that the officers were elected by acclamation at the February meeting and 2) Jeff McMillin was in attendance but missed the original sign-in sheet!

Presentation

Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT, gave us a presentation on Soldering Basics:

- Phil gave a “hands on” demonstration of soldering techniques using commonly available soldering irons, hand tools, solder, and soldering wick.
- Phil commented that he had purchased his K-2 kit radio and assembled the whole kit with essentially the iron he was holding with a 3/32” Weller tip
- Phil informed us that to properly solder, one needed to be on and off the component that was being soldered in less than a “*count of three*,” otherwise the component (or board trace) may be damaged
- Phil recommended that when working at home, wear an anti-static elimination pad. One could be purchased at EPO in the \$30 - \$35 range.
- The Weller soldering station for CMOS and static sensitive equipment has a DC powered heating element and is grounded to minimize static electricity and induced currents.

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- Phil passed around several catalogues that showed soldering equipment and tools for a soldering station
- To solder one should
 - Use the appropriately sized tip. The size of the tip is the main factor in determining the speed and amount of heat that will be transferred to a component. The “operating” temperature is “independent” of the tip size.
 - Wipe the tip on a wet sponge to clean the tip so that the solder joint can be made correctly
 - Apply a small quantity of solder to the tip to “wet” the tip. This “wet tip” is required to transfer the heat from the soldering iron to the component and the PC board.
 - Bring the wet tip to the back side of the component and move the solder around the lead for 2 – 3 seconds (max). The component should be soldered correctly.
- Phil demonstrated how magnet wire could be “stripped” with a soldering iron.
- Phil also demonstrated the following:
 - Using a “Lee Bender” to properly bend the leads of a component to properly insert it into a PC board
 - Using “soldering wick” to remove the solder from a component and PC board pad
 - Resin core solder 0.032” diameter variety
 - Resin core solder is approximately 60% tin (SN) and 40% lead (PB) . The solder we used in the demonstration is 63% SN & 37% PB.

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: \$3,002.86 in the Bank
- Repeaters Reports: 147.08 being repaired, 224.26, 147.32 all working
- Charlie Matthew lead a FD 2006 planning discussion as Field Day Coordinator

New Business

- Richard Banks made a motion :

That The Houston Echo Society move the location of its Wells Fargo Bank checking account from the Champions Branch at 5625 FM 1960 RD W, HOUSTON, TX 77069 (Tel: 281-444-4400) to one that is located at the Meyerland Branch in southwest Houston. This branch is closer to Mr. Bank’s residence.

WELLS FARGO - MEYERLAND

4800 W BELLFORT ST, HOUSTON, TX 77035 (Tel: 713-721-6671)

The motion was seconded by Al Janak, W5ATP, and approved by a unanimous vote. Mr. Banks stated that we would need to order new checks to reflect the new bank branch and new address.

- Mike Nault made a motion that we close the Post Office Box and move all correspondence except the treasurer’s bank statement to the following address:

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Mike Nault: **717 East 8th Street, Houston, Texas 77007-1719**

Richard Bank: **10806 Sagamore, Houston, Texas 77096**

- Charlie Matthew, N0XFD, lead us in a short discussion/ a short presentation on Field Day 2006:
 - OK was received from 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
 - After some open discussion, Lee Gaspard moved that we operate this year again from the Red Cross. Marty seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - 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**.
 - Lee Gaspard volunteered to pass along previous year's materials.
 - Paul Rubin urged us to develop a floor plan for FD operations
 - Mark urged us to pick a contest day and set up the rig configurations and work out interference issues earlier this year
 - Charlie explored the desire to have a **Pot Luck meal** or "food gathering"
 - 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!

- Alan Isaachsen, KB2WF needs a digi-peater

The meeting adjourned about 9:15 pm