

Houston Echo Society Meeting
American Red Cross Building
May 8, 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
Charles Birkhead	AD5VQ	Yes
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
Mike Davidson	N5MT	YES
Charles "Frosty" Frost	K5LBU	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Bill Hardy	KE5HHH	No
Alan Isaachsen	KB2WF	Yes
Joe Judah		
Kent Marshall	W5TXV	YES
Mike Martin	K5LAW	No
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Frank Robichaux	N5EJX	YES
Catherine Robichaux	KA5RIZ	No
Paul Rubin	N8NOV	YES
Glenn Sparks	KI5GY	YES
Phil Swartztrauber	W5GCT	
Mark Tyler	K5GQ	YES
Michael Urich	KA5CVH	YES

The meeting was called to order approximately 7:35pm.

Unapproved DRAFT Version

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Reading & Approval of Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Presentation – Video “Field Day Fever!”
- Field Day Coordinator – Charlie Matthew, N0XFD
- Q & A about Field Day
- Old Business
 - Announcements
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and Newsletter
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Discussion of Field Day results
- New Business
 - Other business – Buying or Fixing 147.08 repeater
- Projects/ Demonstrations
- Adjourn

Marty opened the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Welcome

We went around the room and everyone introduced himself or herself by stating our name, where we are originally from.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 10 meeting was made by Mike Martin (K5LAW) and seconded by Frank Robichaux (N5EJX). The motion passed and the minutes approved by all.

Presentation

The Echo Society watched a “vintage” ARRL Field Day film. The showing was entertaining as many of us saw rigs that we had not seen or used since our “Novice” days. It did show that while technology made operational setup much easier, that the organizational challenges and messaging passing difficulties continue. Field Day continues to be a good skill sharpening exercise and team building exercise.

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: \$3,212.86 in the Bank. Richard Banks (WC5O) announced that he is moving to Lockhart, TX and needs a replacement. Richard gave some of the Treasurer's information to Kent Marshall and the remainder to Lee Gaspard.

Unapproved DRAFT Version

- Repeaters Reports: 147.08 back-up repeater is still being repaired. It appears that there is a problem in the power supply. The 147.08 primary repeater's final amplifier is being repaired by Dave, W5WP. 224.26, 147.32 all working, but could use a bit of attention after 147.08.
- Mike Nault reported that he had sent a letter to Don Pappas, WB2GWV.
- Charlie Matthew lead a FD 2006 planning discussion as Field Day Coordinator
 - Charlie's FD slide presentation covered the proposed setup and operator positions of the W5ECO 3F-STX station and the GOTA setup, N0XFD at the **Red Cross Houston Chapter House Radio room** and nearby secretarial desk, 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**.
 - We would have VHF and UHF capabilities on 50, 144, and 430 MHz
 - Packet demonstration setup
 - APRS demonstration
 - Charlie commented that the SSB station still needs a computer with a logging program. Makr suggested that WRITELOG is good for SSB operations.
 - We will look at using WINLINK for passing messages. Each email counts as a FD contact.
 - Charlie proposed cooking some hamburgers on a grill for the Field Day team and suggested that we could bring other items to round out the pot luck.
 - Marty reminded us that having the "Y-adaptors" for the GOTA headphone greatly assist the mentor of the station.

New Business

- Replacement repeater hardware for 147.08 Repeater: Kent Marshall discussed the fact that he had two Motorola repeaters units that needed crystals for the ham band and an interface to an existing controller or new controller to make operational. These repeaters were taken out of commercial service and were approximately 10 years old. This unit is less than half as old as our existing repeaters. Kent proposed going to a commercial shop and have them integrate our existing S-COM 6K controller with this commercial unit. Mike, K5LAW, stressed the advantage of getting the repeater back on the air to the point he said, "If it cost \$1,000 and buys us some time to better assess new gear, it is probably worth the expenditure." Marty proposed making Kent Marshall, Michael Martin, and Lee Gaspard a committee to investigate the cost and make a proposal at the next meeting.
- Lee Gaspard mentioned that he has received information on club liability insurance from Marsh Insurance, 1776 West Lake Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50398.
- Mark moved that Echo move it's meeting start time from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm, since we were holding it on a Monday evening. Paul Rubin, N8NOV, seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- Frank Robichaux invited everyone to send him articles and information for the news letter.
- Frosty, K5LBU, passed along the information that BVARC would be having classes for Novice beginning this coming Saturday.
- Kent repeated his earlier offer to build beams to support Field Day.

The meeting adjourned about 9:03 pm after a motion was made by Frank Robichaux & seconded by Jeff Beniretto.