

C.A.R.S. Meeting Minutes 2/17/25

Lake City Baptist Temple

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Presiding: President – Dalton Weatherford – (KK4KSM)

Officers Present: V.P. – Jim Taylor – (W4NZR)

Sec. – Marcus Perry – (KN4DCJ)

Tres. – Colen Boutwell – (WA5RKR)

Dirs. – Bill Bennett (KO4WOG), Fred Dawsey (WA4ZFQ) and
~~Gordon Beattie (W2TTT)~~

Members Present:

Bill Tirado, Brad Swartz, Henry price, Matt Haywood, Mike Corbett, Randy Hare, Richard Heston, Steve Poll, Jim White

Guests:

Murray Smith, Kevin Gootee, Allen Kauffman

- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Prayer: by Richard Heston
- Sec. read the Minutes from the last meeting. *(A clarification was made concerning the minutes. I had mistakenly noted 401-C3 status in regards to ARES. It should have read 501-C3.)*
- Once read, requires a motion to approve and a second.
Motion to approve by Colen Boutwell. Second by Randy Hare.

- Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance \$ 308.37
Income \$ 222.00
Expenses \$ _____
New Balance \$ 530.37

- Any Old Business to discuss: We have not yet made a list of CARS Club property vs. ARES property. Colen Boutwell and Randy Hare will collaborate, and come up with a list of "ARES insured" equipment.

- New Business: Brad-N5CBP, gave us the latest news from ARES. Thehe APRS (*automatic packet reporting system*), is up and running. APRS is an amateur radio-based system for real time digital communications of information of immediate value in the local area. Data can include object Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates, non-directional beacon, weather station telemetry, text messages, announcements, queries, and other telemetry. APRS data can be displayed on a map, which can show stations, objects, tracks of moving objects, weather stations, search and rescue data, and direction finding data. APRS data is typically transmitted on a single shared frequency to be repeated locally by area relay stations (digipeaters), for widespread local consumption. In addition, all such data are typically ingested into the APRS Internet System (APRS-IS) via an Internet-connected receiver (IGate) and distributed globally for ubiquitous and immediate access. Data shared via radio or Internet are collected by all users and can be combined with external map data to build a shared live view. Brad gave the group some real life scenarios, where APRS could be an invaluable tool. A lot of good information. Thanks Brad.
- Dalton-KK4KSM, gave us an update on how things went at the recent Winter Field Day. It was held January 25th, at the St. Francis Xavier Church, in Live Oak. We did some PSK31 contacts. Interestingly enough, we actually built a dipole antenna there, where we used to make contacts. Collectively, we made around 230 contacts. Including some Winlink communications.
- Fred-WA4ZDQ, requested that everyone stand and introduce themselves. Was concerned about newer folks and GMRS visitors that might want to get more involved. Everybody present introduced themselves.
- Colen-WA5RKR: The Columbia County ARES, emergency preparedness group (NF4CA), will be working with local Boy Scout Troop #85. On **Saturday, March 29th, from 9:00 till noon**. This will be the first, in a series of presentations to teach the younger generation about the history and usefulness of Ham Radio. We plan on setting up at least three stations. Two HF and one VHF. We would like to see participation from club members. Come prepared as though you were setting up for Field Day. We want this to be an informative and fun event. Flyers were handed out to all present, with all pertinent information, including the address, where the event would be held.
- Colen-WA5RKR discussed the early days of Ham Radio and the problems people were having with spurious emissions from some radios, interfering with people around them. This created a bad reputation between Hams and everyone around them. Any airwave type interference was attributed to Ham Radio. The first problem was to identify the offending radios/operators. This

was done using “direction finding antennas”. This segwayed into Richard’s plan for an upcoming Fox Hunt.

- Richard-KE4BQI discussed a club event he would like to put together in the near future; a Fox Hunt. He described the type of antenna typically used. It is a Phase Array antenna. He wants to set up an antenna build class and have Hams use their own antennas to track down “the fox”. It should be a lot of fun. No date has been set for the event.
- Colen-WA5RKR handed out a list of area machines we all use. This will be an ongoing gathering of information that can be used by Hams to better understand the capability of the equipment and what they actually have access to.
- Upcoming Events:

Next Board Meeting will be: March 17, 2025

Meeting adjourned at: ___8:15_____pm

Secretary:
(Signature)

Marcus Perry
