

The Enid Amateur Radio Club (EARC) Minutes of March 2010 meeting (Approved)

The Enid Amateur Radio Club met Thursday evening, March 18, 2010, at the American Red Cross Building, Enid, OK.

Attendance:

Greg:KD5MFY, Tim:KD5KTB, Richard:K6GLA, Ron:WD5HUT, Sam:KD5EUS, Dave:AD8B, Dan:KE5PQY, Mike:KD5OFF, Katherine:KF5BYN, Jess:KA5HYK, Dave:KC5SII, Al:KD5BA, Bill:KC5OKG, Tom:N5LWT, and Ron Schulz

Call to order:

Mike:KD5OFF called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Silent key:

Mike:KD5OFF shared the news that John:KA7GLA had passed away.

Enid Hamfest:

Tom:N5LWT and family will organize the Enid Hamfest for the 24th and last time this year. Therefore, there was a general discussion related to what it takes to run the hamfest in its current form. Here are a few examples that were shared:

- Reserve and pay for the the hamfest site for Friday afternoon and Saturday a year in advance.
- Contact magazines and other sources to get promotion information out about the hamfest three or four months in advance.
- Reply to table reservations as they arrive.
- Make up tickets and 3x5 cards during the summer.
- Contact and provide for vendors.
- Arrange for prize donations from vendors and magazines.
- Contact and schedule volunteers.
- Watch for sales of food and other kitchen items during the year.
- Arrange tables and mark reservations.

It was acknowledged that Tom:N5LWT and family has done a remarkable job in making the Enid Hamfest what it is, an event that is known and appreciated throughout Oklahoma and into surrounding states. It was agreed that the hamfest should continue on after this year under the organization of the Enid Amateur Radio Club. To this end the club will take on a larger role in this year's hamfest to better familiarize the members with its operation. The club then plans to take over the operation of the 2011 hamfest.

By the time the doors open, \$1200 to \$1500 would be invested. Much of that would then be offset by ticket/table sales and donations. Initially, dedicated hamfest funds would need to be raised and then permanently reserved for building rental and other expenses. It was suggested that hamfest funds should be handled through a separate account.

A committee with an initial size of three members was formed to coordinate the transfer of the operation of the Enid Hamfest to the Enid Amateur Radio Club for the 2011 hamfest. Appointed to the committee by the president were Al:KD5BA, Bill:K5ECI, and Mike:KD5OFF.

Minutes of the previous meetings:

It was M/S/C to approve the minutes of the January 2010 meeting and the February 2010 meeting as posted on the web.

Repeater report:

Greg:KD5MFY reported that the club repeater is working well.

ECF Committee:

Bill:K5ECI will call a meeting soon to discuss community contacts and the purchase of additional equipment.

ARES:

Mike:KD5OFF reported that the ARES group met on Thursday, March 11, and discussed the recent disaster preparedness meeting. This meeting included city, county and volunteer agencies from throughout Garfield County.

Radioactivity Night:

Dave:KC5SII reported that at the next meeting on Thursday, March 25, he will discuss D-Star Hotspot. Also, the discussion on the logistics of a MESH network will continue. All are invited to attend.

Treasurer's report:

Bill:K5ECI reported that recent account activities and current balances as of March 9, 2010, for the club checking and savings accounts were shared. Deposits were made for salvage materials from Wheat Capital Communications and for club dues from 24 members. Both accounts are currently in the black. Approximately \$1000 of ECF committee funds remain in club accounts. Club liability insurance for 1-Apr-2010 to 1-Apr-2011 was paid on March 4. A printed report of account balances was filed with the club secretary.

M/S/C to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

The club approved donations of \$25 to the Red Cross and \$20 to the Willow Road Christian Church.

Form 990-N will be completed by the treasurer and returned to maintain the club's 501c3 status.

Correspondence:

The club treasurer sent letters of thanks to Dwayne Posey for the donation of salvage materials and to Loomis for donations to the club table at the hamfest.

The club secretary sent letters of thanks to Central Christian Church for the donation of a laptop computer and to Jon Ford for the donation of a Dell computer.

Club patches:

Katherine:KF5BYN reported that the reflective material which could be used on members' safety vests to identify our club is very expensive and is only available in 100 foot rolls. There is also a \$40 fee setup fee for printing club information. She will continue to investigate other options to identify volunteers as members of the EARC.

Red Dirt BBQ:

Al:KD5BA reminded us that the Red Dirt BBQ will be held on Friday, April 16. Although only two people were requested to help with RV parking at the Q Spot during the day beginning at 8:00 AM, we should plan to have four there during the day. FRS radios will be used during the day. At least six volunteers will be needed to help control parking at the bank parking lot beginning at 4:00 PM and to keep the fireworks area clear. At that time operations will switch to 2 meters. There will be a walkabout on Thursday to take a closer look at the area and communications needs. Al will post walkabout information on the web site and also email members about it.

The April meeting will provide an opportunity to test available FRS for compatibility. Members with FRS radios should bring them to the club meeting at that time.

Coming events:

Al:KD5BA noted these future events.

April 16 - Red Dirt BBQ

April 24 - March of Dimes Walk (Meet at 9 AM. March kicks off at 10 AM.)

May 1 - Tri-State Parade

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Regional Assembly:

Tim:KD5KTB reported that the Christian Church has requested volunteers to help with the parking lot on April 23rd and 24th from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Two teams of two are needed each night. Volunteers should contact Tim.

Senate Bill 1908:

Greg:KD5MFY noted that Oklahoma Senate Bill 1908 addresses distracted driving due to the use of electronic devices and provides for fines up to \$1000. This bill does not include language which excludes licensed amateur radio operators. Interested members should contact Senator Patrick Anderson requesting that language similar to House Bill 1250 be included to exclude licensed amateur radio operators from the restrictions.

More information may be found on the NobleCountryARC.org web site.

Anonymous letter:

Mike:KD5OFF shared an anonymous letter that had been sent to an Oklahoma ham with our club callsign information as the return address. The letter was not appropriate and did not originate from the club. Mike assured the recipient of this by letter.

M/S/C to adjourn at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dave:AD8B, club secretary.