

JSCARC Meeting Minutes
Feb 8, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Terry KA5TBB called to order the JSCARC regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 1830 CST in the Discovery Room JSC Gilruth.

2. ATTENDEES

KA5TBB (Pres)	Terry Quick
KI5LQT (VPres)	Danielle Plauche
AB5SS (Trustee)	John Maca
W5OC (Sec)	David Lee
KB5PGY	David Fanelli
KG5URA	David Kimbrell
K5KGH	Kelvin Hickman
K5KUA	Joe Gibson
N5FWB	Jerry Steward
AB4ME	Jeff Harbour
KG5U	Dale Martin
G4XWJ	Tim McClellan (visitor)
	Zane Peacock (student)
	Patrick Williams (student)
	Eric Placentia (student)
	Dakota Wilson (new hire)
	Tony Lane (student)

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Tim McClellan was visiting from England. Tim also holds a US callsign AG5YP. A mostly CW opr.

Zane Peacock/ER6 is the Lead for this semester's JSC Student Ham Radio committee.

Patrick Williams studying astronautics and Aeronautics- interested in getting licensed to support high performance model rocketry telemetry activities

Eric Placentia/EP5 ME interested in robotics and control

Dakota Wilson/EV8 METECS new hire

Tony Lane/CI5 (Environ Systems) Math Major

3. TREASURER'S REPORT (K5RG in absentia)

Finances

Balance Total **\$4,269.19** (checking \$28.81 + PayPal \$20.00 + Savings \$52.94 + Wellby CD \$4,167.44)

Items of Interest

1. Received \$1000 from Exxon/Mobil thanks to the volunteer effort of Tanner Jones W9TWJ. It helped pay for the IC-9700 transceiver + SAT Controller to update and modernize the satellite station, which was re-configured with the new equipment thanks to John Maca, AB5SS.
2. **Action Item:** Acknowledge and thank organization for donation to JSC ARC. Specific names for the Club's acknowledgement were forwarded by Tanner.
3. Paid yearly bill for 2024 hosting of W5RRR web site. (QTH.COM \$60.00)
4. Paid yearly bill for ARRL Club Liability policy which runs thru April 1, 2025 (\$200.00 to Risk Strategies/ARRL Insurance Program)

Membership

Total Paid Membership for FY 2024: 63 members

4. ACTIVITIES RECAP BY THE PRESIDENT

- Terry KA5TBB will generate a letter of thanks to Exxon/Mobil for recent \$1000 donation.
- Confirmed with KB5PGY of VEC License exam this Saturday (Feb10) held at the Gilruth
- Reminder of Texas City (July) and Houston Rosenberg (March) hamfests
- Thanks to AB4ME, AB5SS, K5KGH, KG5U, W5OC for ARISS downlink demo support for visiting HQ STEM AA, Mike Kincaid.
 - Will be on lookout for possibility to seek sponsorship for 2nd tower foundation project
 - When appropriate, we will suggest refurbishment funds needed for foundation at \$20K-\$30K.
- Reminder next POTA Feb 24 and next NOTA Feb 26
 - W5OC added that POTA might include Fox Hunt if interest
 - Doppler Handi Finder receivers can be made available
 - Also, if enough interest, a JSCARC club DIY build of this design is offered
- JSCARC Gobox project on hold
- Terry KA5TBB will process license for JSCARC trailer. **(ACTION)**

5. OPEN ACTIONS

1. Shack Benchtop Safety Issue

Action: Terry KA5TBB

Implement steel welded supports for benches

Status: Terry was waiting for coordinated opportunity to perform welding for club members and students. W5OC suggested to forgo the involvement by other in order to get this done more expeditiously.

2. JSCARC Club Booklets for Public Events

Action: Danielle KI5LQT

Draft production handouts

Status: The importance of this booklet was voiced. The current Spring Semester students present at this meeting agreed to help review and edit the booklet in support of KI5LQT.

3. Maintain Club Sponsorships (EV and ARISS)

Action: Terry KA5TBB

Meet with Avionics EV8 BC to:

1. *Request continued funding of monthly WiFi shack router*
2. *Discuss transfer of Property Custodianship from EV to JSCARC*
3. Consider options for AB4ME onsite access for after hours for ARISS ops

Status:

WiFi

Dave W5OC emphasized the importance of retaining goodwill sponsorship for the WiFi by EV. Dave explained that the subsidy of this recurring charge is regularly scrutinized by the division and easily subject to termination if not pre-coordinated for support with the EV8 Branch Chief. Terry commented that he's tried to contact BC several times with no success.

Property Custodianship

It was proposed that David Fanelli, KB5PGY, receive the transfer of property custodianship of EV equipment (incl Flex Radios, Elecraft amp, Beko amp) currently under custodianship by EV8/Jack Wisbiski. This will preempt a likely request by EV.

ARISS access to W5RRR after hours

Discussion ensued about options to allow members (primarily AB4ME, since he is key JSCARC ARISS personnel) on site for ARISS passes afterhours. It was agreed that the practical approach is to request Security to keep the back gate open whenever an ARISS event was planned- e.g. keep gate open for ~3 hours to allow for pre-checkout, downlink event, and shutdown. Danielle KI5LQT agreed to discuss with Gilruth management (**ACTION**).

6. MISCELLANEOUS

John AB5SS reminded members and students that per decision at last meeting, all JSC interns now have free (no dues required) membership to the JSCARC. After licensed, they qualify for access to the shack.

During conversations of ARISS readiness and the new IC-9700 radio, John noted his action to add back the phonepatch configuration and ARISS related interfaces as needed for the IC-9700. **(ACTION)**

Dave W5OC elaborated on the recent meeting for the ARISS demo for the HQ AA of STEM, Mike Kincaid. Along with Mike, was Gamaliel (Dan) Cherry and Dynae Fullwood of the JSC STEM Office /AD4. They conveyed their strong interest to work with the JSCARC to help bolster student outreach and their existing Texas STEM Grants, especially for the Sam Houston schools and a recent need to support scouts at the Strake Camp.

Dave W5OC suggested future 2 POTA all-day roadtrips, if enough interest is expressed:

POTA route run 1

1. Sheldon Lak
2. San Jac
3. Battleship Texas
4. San Felipe
5. Stephen F Austin
6. Brazos Bend

POTA route run 2

1. Galveston Island
2. Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
3. Justin Hurst Wildlife Management Area
4. San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge
5. Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site
6. Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site
7. Brazos Bend State Park

A slideshow of JSCARC STEM work (shown to AA STEM Mike Kincaid) was presented to the club.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 CST, by Terry KA5TBB

8. SHOW AND TELL

Jerry N5FWB

New portable radio setup:

- 25mm ammo box; perfectly fits his ic7300
- Chamelon telescoping antenna- CHA SS17 Stainless Steel Whip 17'
- 100ah LiFeO4 battery + 2X 50A breakers, charger. Weight 17lbs

AB5SS

- Begali mono key (nice!)
- Elecraft KX1 QRP transceiver (rare and no longer made)

- Updated battery go-box for his 4x 72 AHpack in-work

W5OC

- Palm Mini (rare, no longer made)
- Beelink \$199 Mini PC mounted behind a cheap \$85 24" monitor (for Rover ops)
- Handi Finder Fox Hunt receiver (modified design by NZ1J)

The visitors then went to the W5RRR shack afterwards for a tour and informal social meeting. Ending around 9:00pm