

JSCARC Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Terry KA5TBB called to order the JSCARC regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 1830 CST in the Discovery Room JSC Gilruth.

2. ATTENDEES

KA5TBB (Pres)	Terry Quick
KI5LQT (VPres)	Danielle Plauche
K5RG (Treas)	Ken Goodwin
AB5SS (Trustee)	John Maca
W5OC (Sec)	David Lee
KB5PGY	David Fanelli
K5KGH	Kelvin Hickman
N5FWB	Jerry Steward
AB4ME	Jeff Harbour
KG5U	Dale Martin
KG5LJZ	Jayant Ramakrishnan
AD5CQ	George Fletcher
KE5TUG	Rick Sullivan
W5JBF	Jerry Fowler
W5REZ	Mike Giannaccio

2. TREASURER'S REPORT (K5RG)

Finances

\$4,475.54 Balance Total, up ~\$201 largely due to the recent \$155 intake from the donated sale items at the Greater Houston Hamfest last month.

Membership

Total Paid Membership for FY 2024: 65 members (vs 72 in FY23)

3. OLD BUISNESS

1. Shack Benchtop Safety Issue

Action: Terry KA5TBB

Implement steel welded supports for benches.

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

Current Status:

KA5TBB reports that he has built and installed 2 new steel supports in the shack. 2 more sets are awaiting cutting and adjustment of legs before completion and installation.

2. JSCARC Club Booklets for Public Events

Action: Danielle KI5LQT

Draft production handouts

Previous 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.

Current Status:

KI5LQT reports that we are awaiting new student intern group to receive this assignment to review and redline draft. Plans are for students to assume ownership and passed to each semester's group.

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 after-hours for ARISS ops*

Current Status: (see below)

WiFi

W5OC emphasized the importance of retaining goodwill sponsorship for the WiFi by EV and 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.

Current Status: KA5TBB reports that content was discussed with EV8 BC. Although no commitments were conveyed, this item was mentioned for acknowledgement. ACTION CLOSED.

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.

Current Status: KA5TBB reports that EV8 BC agreed to transfer property transfer. Transfer successfully made to JSCARC Property Custodian, D Fanelli KB5PGY. ACTION CLOSED.

4. ARISS access to W5RRR after hours

Action: Danielle KI5LQT

Discuss with Gilruth management option to keep back gate open for ARISS

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.

Current Status: KI5LQT reports the communique with Gilruth management is planned for Friday (March 15)

5. Acknowledge and thank organization for donation to JSC ARC.

Action: KA5TBB

Issue note of appreciation.

Previous Status: Specific names for the Club's acknowledgement were provided from Tanner.

Current Status: KA5TBB reports that a draft letter is completed.

6. IC-9700 ARISS updates

Action: AB5SS

Add ARISS related interfaces as needed for IC-9700

During conversations of ARISS readiness and the new IC-9700 radio, John noted his action to add back the phone patch configuration and ARISS related interfaces as needed for the IC-9700.

Current Status: AB5SS reports that he identified another ARISS site which uses the IC-9700 for phone patch support. Proper connector/adapters need to be installed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

1. W5RRR Shack closet door is locked

The door to the shack closet was found locked and remains inaccessible. KA5TBB believes the door can be unlocked using the master key for the room. There were no specific accepted ideas how to preclude this from happening again, although KG5U suggested a sign on the door.

ACTION: KA5TBB to obtain master key to unlock door.

2. JSCARC subsidy of new student intern license application fees.

Currently new licensees pay \$50 (\$15 VE fee + \$35 FCC fee). \$25 for each new student intern applicant was suggested and approved as a club subsidy to defray cost and as an incentive to get licensed. This policy is a one-time opportunity for each student. The subsidy will be provided after proof of licensure (e.g. callsign assigned). K5RG suggested a check from the club could be used to pay each student. As a reminder, AB5SS announced that the club had also recently agreed to allow licensed student interns free membership to the JSCARC, if they remained as a formal student intern.

3. Improved communication for incoming student intern exam candidates.

The Club VE Team Liaison requested discussing improved communications between JSCARC/student interns/and the VE Liaison prior to exam. It was conveyed that an updated description of pre-exam preparations could be reviewed and posted on the W5RRR website. This effort would make the licensee applicants better and more consistently informed, prior to taking the exam date at the Gilruth.

4. Club participation for April 20-21, Texas State Parks on The Air (TSPOTA)

With the popularity of POTA and JSCARC's involvement, this year's TSPOTA allows clubs to aggregate scores for a club certificate. A potential group car caravan through multiple parks over Apr 20-21 weekend (1400Z-0200Z Sat, 1400-2000Z Sun), OR a single group club presence at a single park is encouraged for this event. Car caravan planning should be started soon. Student interns will be invited. W5OC presented a quick overview of the idea. (see presentation).

ACTION: W5OC to post signup sheet for participants.

5. Spring Semester Student Activities

Approximately 8 student interns have passed the Technician License exam this semester. Expect additional support requests forthcoming for POTA/T-Hunt, and Hotworks permit for soldering and building projects upcoming. Still seeking opportunity to assign student interns to serve on an educational outreach event for younger STEM students (i.e. scouts, middle school, etc.). This discussion item was for information only.

6. "Aliens vs. Astronauts" 5K on May 4th.

Dave KB5PGY announced the upcoming "A v A" event. He concurred that student intern's participation would be welcome.

ACTION: W5OC to post signup sheet for participants.

7. Query from Mark Allard/AARC @ Ames (3/11/24)

"Would also appreciate current information for a POC at your Center or facility to contact regarding NASA federal Emergency Communications programs such as SHARES and NASA-HF Net and if your Amateur Radio Club is formally or informally engaged with them providing voluntary auxiliary communications (AUXCOM) support for your Center or Facility's federal Emergency Communications program.

Please respond for your Amateur Radio Club and/or Center or Facility even if you do not know the Emergency Communications contact or have any involvement with the Emergency Communications program at your Center or Facility."

KB5PGY confirmed that he was the POC for this query.

ACTION: W5OC to forward the original email to KB5PGY. KB5PGY will respond to Ames.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mike W5REZ developer and owner of the REZ Ranger 80 antenna, was invited by K5RG to present at the club meeting. Because of the popularity of the club's POTA activities, the REZ antenna presentation was a good topic of interest.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 CT, by Terry KA5TBB

7. SHOW AND TELL

Jerry N5FWB

Updated portable battery box.

- 100ah LiFeO4 battery + 2X 50A breakers, charger, ports. LCD status display.

John AB5SS

Mini Iambic Paddle

- 3D printed