

JSCARC Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Terry KA5TBB, called to order the JSCARC regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 6:27 PM in the Inspiration Room JSC Gilruth.

ATTENDEES

KA5TBB (Pres)	Terry Quick
KG5U (VP)	Dale Martin
K5RG (Treas)	Kenneth Goodwin
AB5SS (Trustee)	John Maca
W5OC (Sec)	David Lee
KB5PGY	David Fanelli
N5FWB	Jerry Steward
KG5URA	David Kimbrell
K5KUA	Joe Gibson
AB4ME	Jeff Harbour
K5KGH	Kelvin Hickman
W5HOO	Chris Counts
AD5CQ	George Fletcher
KK5DDD	David Dale
<?? >	(Sorry I do not remember your name/call- ed)



Go-Ahead for 2nd tower foundation.

Terry opened the meeting with the great news that the Centers has given its approval for the long sought after 2nd tower foundation. Terry shared this message he received,



b61c0725-d2de-4d43-
95cc-94a99ee5f1e1
16 KB



Stephenson, Curtis A. (JSC-JM411) 19 minutes ago

I just got the green light to turn on the tower foundation. the estimate was expired. It will take a few weeks to get that refreshed, but things ae moving forward now.

2. TREASURERS REPORT (provided in absentia K5RG)

Financial Balance: Total \$12,457.54

Membership: 64 paid

Dues: Club fees are due soon for the new GFY 26 year beginning Oct 1

ARRL Board of Directors impacts

1. HQ will inspect ARRL club web pages for TBD suggestions for improvement
2. Per ARRL affiliated club policy, ARRL will check that 50% are current ARRL members

New member Introduction:

David Dale KK5DDD via Special Exception Membership

3. OLD BUSINESS

Trailer Paperwork

Jerry N5FWB reports extensive efforts expended on complicated administratium:

- Been Beaumont DMV 4 times
- met w/ insur agent; need to get bond
- \$300 incurred costs so far
- inspection done! (took two times)
- A Surety bond; so, title can be transferred to club
- remaining work w/ courthouse
- request for Texas Radio W5RRR plates for free?
- incoming bill to Ken

Repeater Backup Battery:

No reported new activity for installation

Shack Bench (welded leg) upgrade

No reported new activity

4. NEW BUSINESS

Tropic Weather status:

David KB5PGY reports 50% storm development watch- rain mostly

ARISS Ground Certification updates

Jeff AB4ME reported status of the W5RRR Amateur Radio On the ISS ground station:

- Has had interchanges with Ken McCaughey primary op of ARISS K6DUE @ Goddard
- ARISS committee is currently updating application, requirements and commissioning process for ARISS telebridge stations.
 - i.e. definitive requirements are not available to guide us today.
- Jeff demonstrated a Proof of Concept of an ARISS non-analog audio configuration
 - Using Google voice @ sans analog POTS line and sans analog phone patch
 - Demonstrated using cell phone call into Google Voice, and porting into radio
- Will plan to conduct dry runs and work out reliability and stability
- Noted that K6DUE (GSFC) has IC-9700 but still using TS2000 today
 - Not ready to introduce new risk of complexity/configuration change - yet

ARISS Backup station

Jeff commented that K6DUE uses TS2000 as prime and another TS2000 as backup
John AB5SS concurred with Jeff to the idea of duplicating IC-9700 configuration for backup

- John to investigate potential source to procure an IC-9700

The club agreed to duplicate the IC-9700 primary station as a backup except for the antennas.

Will await John's success to acquire an IC-9700 before beginning the other procurements.

Balloon Project

John AB5SS described recent JSC Student Intern balloon project.

Under compressed 5 days of development and launch, the first JSCARC balloon project was highly successful with extremely enthusiastic students who programmed, built and released 3 balloons. One balloon KI5CWE, is still intermittently sending beacon RF telemetry. Was currently tracked over Central Texas after being aloft for over 10 days.

Physical Accessibility of antenna patch panels

Chris W5HOO reported that it is difficult to change antennas at the patch panel for wheel chaired operators. Though the height of the patch panel was mounted at a standing eye-level, the screw-on PL259 connectors were commented to increase the difficulty to swap cables. Chris suggested using "push-on" connectors. The club agreed to procure them.

Jamboree On The Air

Dave W5OC reported of the JSCARC intention to support the Oct 18-19 JOTA with potential visit with TBD astronaut(s). Jeff AB4ME commented that his recent conversation with Ana, KI5SDP, the JSC ham astronaut liaison, revealed that expectation of crew involvement is TBD, especially since 2 key scout-interested astronauts will now not be available. It was also noted that JOTA on Oct 18-19 competes with multiple public service events that JSCARC members will be supporting, including Wings Over Houston and Bike Around the Bay.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM, by Terry KA5TBB.

6. SHOW N TELL

John AB5SS: **Pocket Mini Radio**

- All Band 0.5-108mhz Radio Receiver LSB USB AM FM
- MSRP ~\$40



Radtel RT-880g HT

- APRS 10w Ham Radio Walkie Talkie Portable CB Radio 1024 Channels HF SSB Rx with
- Cross-Band Repeater, 2.4 Inch Color Display
- 220 MHz also
- MSRP ~\$100



Jeff AB4ME:

zbitx 5W handheld SDR

- all band all mode QRP transceiver
- Two standard 18650 batteries.
- The touch screen
- Build-in FT8
- 5w
- waterfall touch screen
- 2 raspi
- opensource
- MSRP ~\$200



George AD5CQ:

Yaesu FTX1

- All Mode Field Transceiver
- 100 Watt and QRP
- HF,6M,2M,70CM
- Front panel removable for optional 6W QRP lightweight portable operation.
- MSRP ~\$2400

